The DAILY COMMERCIAL, published by the Commercial Printing Company, corner Fifth avenue and Smithfield street, opposite Postoffice.

RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

☞ TERMS OF THE DAILY: Single copy, 3 cents; delivered by carriers (per week) 15 cents; subscribers by mail (per year), $10 00, postage pre-paid.

☞ Communications designed for publication should be addressed to the Editor.

☞ Letters on Business, Subscription, &c., address COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

The Weekly Commercial, a large sheet containing all the Current News, Miscellaneous, Literary and Scientific Intelligence, and Valuable Reading for the family.

TERMS OF THE WEEKLY: Per Year (52 issues), $1 75; in Clubs of Twenty and over $1 25, postage pre-paid; one copy gratis to the getter up of the Club. The money must always accompany the Order, and in no instance can these terms be deviated from.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XIII. PITTSBURGH, TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 7, 1875. NO. 78.

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FIRST EDITION.

XLIV. CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 6, 1875.

The opening of the Forty-fourth Congress was marked by the presence in and around the Capitol of a larger crowd than probably ever before watched similar proceedings. The wet and dreary weather seemed to have little or no effect in restraining the eagerness of the multitude which has flowed into the city in the past few days, and from an early hour the galleries of the House of Representatives were packed more closely, if possible, than the hall itself, and all approaches and every available space became gradually filled up until, as the hour of noon approached, it was almost impossible for one to make his way in any direction through the mass, the majority of them directly or indirectly interested in places and emoluments which the changes of political parties in the House offers.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

At twelve o'clock the House was called to order by Mr. McPherson, Clerk of the House of the Forty-third Congress, and the hall was cleared of all not entitled to its privilege. The attendance of members was very full, nearly every seat being occupied. Mr. McPherson then called the names of members by States, commencing with Maine.

In regard to the representation from the Thirty-third district of New York, the Clerk explained that the person first elected had died, and the person elected to fill the vacancy had presented credentials so peculiar in form that the Clerk preferred to submit the question to the House.

In reference to the Louisiana delegation, the Clerk said he had received two sets of certificates, one certificate, one certificate signed by Wm. Pitt Kellogg, showing the election of Mr. Morey, and the other signed by John McEnery, showing the election of Mr. Spencer, and that as Mr. Kellogg was the *de facto* Governor, the Clerk had acted on his certificate and had enrolled Morey. As to the Sixth district, he had only received one certificate, signed by Governor Kellogg, and he acted on that. The call being concluded, the Clerk announced that two hundred and fifty-six members had answered to their names. The absentees are Dobbins, of New Jersey; Egbert, of Pennsylvania (who had returned home this morning on account of death in his family); Stevens, of Georgia, and Oliver, of Iowa; these, with the two vacancies from the Thirty-third district of New York and the Fourth district of Illinois, make 262 members of which the House is composed.

Mr. LAMAR moved that the House proceed to the election of Speaker. Agreed to.

Mr. LAMAR—I put in nomination for the office of Speaker of the House for the Forty-fourth Congress, Michael C. Kerr, member elect from the State of Indiana.

Mr. WHEELER, of New York, then nominated for the same position James G. Blaine, of the State of Maine.

The Clerk asked whether there were any other nominations, and there being no response, appointed as tellers Messrs. Stevenson, Clymer, Danforth and Banks. The House then voted with the following result: Whole number of votes cast, 280; necessary to a choice, 141; Michael C. Kerr received 178, James G. Blaine received 106, Alpheus S. Williams, of Michigan, 1; cast by Mr. Banks, of Massachusetts: Alex. Campbell, of Illinois, 1; cast by Mr. Anderson, of Illinois: Wm. Anderson, 1. The Clerk appointed Randall and Blaine to escort the Speaker-elect to the chair. As Mr. Kerr was conducted down the main aisle to the Speaker's chair, there was considerable clapping of hands on the Democratic side of the House.

The SPEAKER, on taking his position, said: Gentlemen of the House of Representatives: I am heartily grateful to you for the honor which you have conferred upon me in calling me to this exalted station. I profoundly appreciate the importance and delicacy of its duties. I shall, doubtless, many times, need your patient indulgence. I pray that you will grant it, and with nothing but kindly feelings toward every member of the House, I promise that in all my official acts I will divest myself to the utmost of any possibility of personal bias, and observe complete fairness and impartiality toward all, and toward all the great and diversified interests of our country represented in this House.

Mr. KELLEY, of Pennsylvania, as the oldest member of the House in continuous service, administered the oath of office to the Speaker.

The oath of office was administered by the Speaker to members, beginning with those from the New England States, who, on being called, ranged themselves in the aisles in front of the Clerk's desk, and there, with uplifted hands, went through the solemn form of ceremony. What is known as the Iron-clad oath was the form administered to members generally, but a majority of the Southern members, being unable to take that oath, the modified oath was administered to them.

Mr. WOOD, of New York, objected to Morey, of Louisiana, and Mr. GARFIELD objected to Cook, of Virginia, whereupon these gentlemen were not permitted to qualify.

Subsequently Mr. WOOD offered a resolution referring the credentials of Morey and Spencer to the Committee on Elections, with instructions to report which of them is entitled to the seat. He said he rose for the purpose to raise the question as to who was the legal Governor of Louisiana, in order to call attention to this inquiry to determine that question, the sole and exclusive question being as to what form of credential the respective claimants presented.

Mr. BLAINE declaired that there was no more official ground for speaking of John McEnery as Governor of Louisiana than there was for speaking of the gentleman from Utah as the Governor of New York. No department of the Government had ever recognized McEnery, and the House last session, by a very large vote to which many gentlemen of the Democratic side of the House were consenting and many of them anxious that the resolution should pass, had solemnly recognized Kellogg as the Governor of Louisiana and for the gentleman from New York to make a statement that the Governorship of Louisiana is still in a state of doubt, or was still in suspense, was to place the House in a wrong position. He thought that the Clerk could have been perfectly justified in tearing up as waste paper the credentials signed by McEnery. He trusted that the gentlemen from New York did not wish to open the whole Louisiana case on this question.

Mr. WOOD replied that the papers in the case of all members from Louisiana were themselves sufficient answer to the gentleman for if there was no possible question as to who was Governor of Louisiana, why was it that all members of that State had considered it necessary to obtain the certificate of McEnery? They had all demanded and received from one here clothed with certificates from each of the Governors. He did not propose to raise in this country the question as to who was or who was not Governor of Louisiana. The question to be determined was in the first place, was whether Morey presented credentials that entitled him to a seat on this floor.

Mr. WHEELER said he had understood that the question as to who was Governor of Louisiana had been at rest, and would until the next general election, and regretted that for a party advantage it should be again raised. Not only had Kellogg been recognized as Governor of Louisiana by the President of the United States and by both Houses, but also by the people of Louisiana, and that recognition followed by its Legislature at the extra session, held last April. Besides this, the man Spencer had absolutely foreclosed himself by having made himself a contestant.

Mr. FRYE—Is there on record since the election held in 1872 in Louisiana a single official act of McEnery except this single one of signing those certificates?

Mr. WHEELER—Not one.

Mr. WOOD remarked that the question settled last session had been conned entirely to the relations of the Legislature, not to the election of Governor.

Mr. LAMAR said that the Clerk of the House had made known to the House the existence of a controversy as to the only reference to the merits of the case, but with reference to the *prima facie* evidence in the House. The House was in possession of the fact that there was such a controversy. It might be a very simple and a very intelligible question, but still it was a question of law as to whether the credentials were assigned by the proper Governor or not. It had been crystallized into a regular parliamentary law, that a question involving the *prima facie* case as well as the merits of the case should be referred to the Committee on Elections.

Mr. BLAINE asked Mr. Lamar whether, in the history of the House, he knew of any case where intermediately between the organization a member signed by a pretended Governor, who had never been recognized as Governor, by any department of the United States, or by his own State, had been referred to a committee? He trusted that his friend Lamar, with his well known moderation, would restrain his party from placing on record such an outrage, not only on State rights, but on which he (Lamar) was such an exemplar and advocate, but on the rules of common decency as well.

Mr. LAMAR remarked that the question whether one of these pretended Governors was really Governor or not was a very easy question to be referred to the committee.

Mr. BLAINE—Then I understand the gentleman to accept Lovell's title as the organizing of the whole Louisiana case, and not merely a question as to a seat or a member?

Mr. LAMAR—The gentleman simply understands that a question which the Clerk of House has remitted to the House, whether or not it involves other questions as to the validity of the Gubernatorial incumbent of Louisiana) is a question which ought not to be decided informally on the mere seating of a member, but ought to be referred to the House, to the committee, and gravely and maturely decided.

Mr. BLAINE asked whether it was not a matter of history that last year, in what was known as the Louisiana adjustment, it was perfectly understood that the vote of the House declaring Kellogg to be Governor was a final settlement, and whether the gentleman from Georgia (Stephens), as the very head of the Democratic party, had not voted with the Republicans avowedly for that as might be a final settlement? Did his honorable friend Lamar come here now to head a movement to trample on the other side of the agreement, and to reopen the whole case?

Mr. LAMAR admitted that there had been a compromise last session, and that one of the promise did acknowledge Kellogg as acting Governor of Louisiana. He hoped that the gentleman from New York [Wood] would, acting on the suggestion of Mr. Hoar, modify his resolution by omitting the preamble, and merely referring the matter to the Committee on Elections, with instructions to report on the *prima facie* case.

Mr. WOOD modified his resolution accordingly.

The Clerk of the House, with the permission of the House, made the following statement: The controlling fact which, in my judgment, required me to accept the Kellogg certificates, was that, prior to the making up of the roll on the 4th of March last, there had been a recognition by the House of Representatives of William Pitt Kellogg as Governor of Louisiana, and at that time he was *de facto* Governor of the State. In review of this recognition by the executive branch of the Government, by all departments of the Government, and by that part of the legislative branch of the Government to which I belong, I considered it my self absolutely compelled and therefore I inserted the names returned by Governor Kellogg without any reference whatever to the political aspect of the case.

After further discussion, participated in by the Messrs. Holman, Banks, Cox and Jones, the previous question was seconded. The main question was ordered, yeas 184, nays 34. The question was then put on the resolution and it was rejected.

Mr. BLAINE then moved that Frank Morey having presented credentials, signed in due form by Governor Kellogg, be sworn in as a member.

Mr. RANDALL suggested to strike out of the motion that part recognizing Kellogg as Governor.

Mr. BLAINE said that he was perfectly willing to do so, and having so modified the motion it was agreed to without division and Mr. Morey was sworn in as a member.

The question as to right of Mr. Goode of Virginia was next taken up, and after a short discussion Mr. Goode was sworn in as a member, taking the modified oath.

The question as to the manner in the Thirty-third district of New York was then taken up, and, after statements by Messrs. Norton and Cox, Mr. Ketchum-elect was sworn in and the technical question involved in the case was referred to the Committee on Elections.

The delegates from the Territories were then called and sworn in by the iron clad oath.

Mr. LAMAR then offered a resolution declaring the following officers of the House: Clerk, George M. Adams, of Kentucky; Sergeant-at-Arms, John G. Thompson, of Ohio; Doorkeeper, Lafayette H. Fitzhugh, of Texas; Postmaster, James M. Stewart, of Virginia; and Chaplain, Rev. J. L. Townsend.

Mr. WHEELER, of New York, offered an amendment substituting the names of the present incumbents of these offices: McPherson, Ordway, Sherwood and Butler. The amendment was rejected and the original resolution adopted. The newly elected officers were then sworn in, Messrs. Fitzhugh and Stewart taking the modified oath.

A message was sent to the Senate to inform that body that the House was organized and ready for business. A committee was appointed to join a like committee on the part of the Senate to wait on the President and inform him that Congress was now in session and ready to receive any communication he might please to make, and Messrs. Cox, of New York, Knott and Blaine were appointed as such committee.

Mr. RANDALL offered a resolution adopting the rules of the House in the Forty-third Congress as the rules of the present House, except rules 106 and 107, and also providing for the appointment of a Committee on Rules to consist of the Speaker and four members. The rules 106 and 107 are those adopted in the last Congress requiring motions to suspend the rules to be seconded by a majority and forbidding the entertainment of dilatory motions.

Mr. GARFIELD suggested that by immemorial usage, the rules of the preceding House became the rules of this House, without any special motion to that effect.

Mr. RANDALL replied that immemorial usage might do for the Republican side of the House but not for the Democratic side, which required a strict construction of the rules.

Mr. GARFIELD—(Contemptuously.) Oh, yes. [Laughter.]

The resolutions were adopted, and then it was ordered that the usual drawing for seat-take place at one o'clock to-morrow. The House then adjourned.

Many members, conspicuous among them Mr. Blaine, stepped up to the Speaker's chair and took this opportunity of felicitating him on his election, and on the manner in which he had discharged his first day's duties.

SENATE.

The Senate was called to order promptly at twelve by Hon. T. W. FERRY, of Michigan, President *pro tem.*

Rev. Dr. Sunderland, Chaplain, offered a prayer, in which he invoked the Divine blessing on the President of the United States, Congress, and that the nation might be preserved to the deaths occurring since the last session.

Senator CONKLING then announced the presented the credentials of David M. Key, appointed United States Senator in place of Andrew Johnson, deceased, and he was sworn in. The usual resolutions to notify the House of Representatives and the President of the United States that a quorum of the Senate was assembled and was ready for business, were adopted, and at 12:15 P. M. the Senate took a recess for an hour.

The overflow from the House surged into the galleries of the Senate, and they were well filled. The mourning arranged for the funeral ceremonies of Vice President Wilson remains in place, and his chair, heavily draped, was placed in the rear of that occupied by the presiding officer.

On re-assembling, Mr. BOUTWELL announced the death of Vice President Wilson, and said, at an early day resolutions relating to his life, character and public services would be offered.

Mr. ANTHONY submitted a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee of two Senators, to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives, to inform the President that a quorum of the two Houses had assembled, and Congress was ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make. Agreed to, and the Chair appointed Messrs. Anthony and Thurman as such committee.

Mr. ANTHONY said it was not probable that any message would be received from the House to-day, or if at all, it would be late in the hour. He thought the Senate might as well adjourn. He made a motion to that effect, which was agreed to. By a vote of seventy-two to eight the Senate adjourned till to-morrow.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 6, 1875.

MISS CATHARINE E. BEECHER'S LETTER.

Miss Catharine E. Beecher has published another letter on the Brooklyn scandal, in which she says there is a sure and immediate remedy for the slander which has alike disgraced Brooklyn, our country and humanity. This remedy is applicable of certain principles of common sense which regulate common people in all business affairs.

First—The first and chief is, that in practical questions, that which has the balance of evidence in to be assumed as the truth.

Second—Established moral character is the highest kind of evidence, and the circulation of accusations contrary to it is slander, unless proved by the balance of the evidence.

Third—Contradictory assertions by an accuser nullify his testimony.

Fourth—Writings equally capable of two meanings are to be interpreted so as to be consistent with the character of the writer and his own declarations.

Fifth—Self-accusations of crimes contrary to established character that involve evil and not good, are proof of temporary insanity or monomania.

Sixth—The ordinary customs of a family or community are to regulate decisions. "The remedy for this hideous outrage on decent society," continues the writer, "can be immediately remedied by the clergy and editors (especially editors of religious papers), maintaining the principles of common sense in the pulpit and by the press. For, on applying these rules, it will be found that practically there is no evidence at all to support the accusations against the clergyman, and that the accuser and all circulating his accusations are guilty of slander."

POOR RESULTS OF AN EXPEDITION TO CUBA.

Colonel Rosads, who commanded the last expedition to Cuba in the steamer Uruguay, made a report last evening to the Association of the Independencia de Cuba. The vessel, he said, was wholly unfit for service and could attain little over five miles an hour. The supply of coal was insufficient and the provisions short. When they reached Cuba nine men were landed to reconnoitre, but the place was so dangerous to vessels it was impossible to land any part of the cargo or any soldiers. Meanwhile the Spanish authorities had been informed and they had to make the utmost speed to Jamaica. The arms furnished were of an inferior quality. He blamed the agents in this city for negligence in fitting out the vessel.

GOING TO MEET THE BOSS.

Several persons escaped from Raymond Street Jail, Brooklyn, during last night. Among the number were John and Thomas Loughrey, on trial the past week charged with counterfeiting nickle coins.

MANDAMUS REFUSED.

Judge Johnson to-day, in the United States Equity Court, refused to grant a mandamus to compel the postmaster to receive third class mail matter at one cent an ounce, holding that while the postoffice laws are revenue laws within the meaning of the statutes, they are not laws for raising revenue within the meaning of the Constitution.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Probabilities for To-Day.—For the Ohio Valley, rising barometer, southeast winds and rain, veering to colder northwest winds and possibly snow or sleet. For the Lower Lakes and Middle States, falling barometer, northeast winds backing to the southeast and southwest, and rain or snow and generally higher temperature, except colder northwest winds Tuesday night on the lower lakes. For the canal regions of New Jersey and Virginia, the temperature will remain above freezing. Cautionary signals will be discontinued on the lakes after December 15.

The steamship Indiana, from Liverpool, arrived at Philadelphia, yesterday.

A city election takes place in Louisville to-day. The indications are favorable for a hot fight on the Mayoralty.

Both Houses of the Arkansas General Assembly are now holding two and three sessions per day. Final adjournment takes place Friday.

The Leavenworth, Kansas, School Board last night, by a vote of five to four, resolved to admit colored children into the public schools of that city.

A noted Mexican cattle thief was shot on the border, six miles above Brownsville, Texas, recently, while resisting a sheriff's posse, who were attempting to arrest him.

At the Moody and Sankey noon day prayer meeting, in Philadelphia, the attendance was, on account of the unfavorable weather, smaller than usual. During the meeting several gentlemen made remarks giving evidence of the power of prayer and of the inspiring effects of the labor of the evangelists.

In the United States Circuit Court at St. Louis yesterday, Judge Treat sitting at chambers, Frank J. Bowman, attorney for certain stockholders of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, filed a motion to discharge the Missouri Pacific road from the receivership of the Atlantic and Pacific road, and also a motion for the appointment of a separate receiver for the Missouri Pacific road.

The New York *Herald* has a special from Washington stating that it is reported there that a bill of indictment has been found by the Grand Jury in St. Louis against General Babcock. It is said that the military court of inquiry was considered as a necessity by all parties, and was decided on after consultation with army officers and politicians of high standing.

James Conley, a boiler maker of Columbus, Ohio, started on a spree last Saturday, and spent the evening in a saloon. About ten o'clock, while playing cards, he was noticed to drop his cards and apparently fall asleep. At first no notice was taken of his action, it being supposed that he was merely stupefied with liquor, but some time after it was found impossible to awaken him, and he died yesterday morning.

ESCAPE OF BOSS TWEED.

What the Papers of the Country Think About It.

[From the New York Times.]

Whatever penalty can be exacted from Sheriff Conner for his gross and culpable negligence ought certainly to be insisted on to the uttermost. The escape of Tweed simply gives a new emphasis to the prevalent opinion that let a man only steal on a large enough scale, he can, by hook or crook, manage to defeat justice. That is one of the most demoralizing lessons which can be impressed on the mind of any community, and those responsible for this latest illustration of its aptness to the administration of law in this city ought to receive a punishment having some obvious relation to the magnitude of their offense.

[From the New York Herald.]

The escape of William M. Tweed from prison yesterday is the crowning shame of a long series of disgraces. Nothing now could excel this in infamy but the failure of the police to retake him. That, fortunately, seems to be a humiliation too great for this city to endure. Tweed must be retaken or American justice will be the laughing stock of the world.

The manner in which this malefactor escaped is described in our local columns, and the first thought that will occur to every citizen will be one of indignation that our prison discipline is so lax that an escape of the kind was possible. It has been known for a long while, and the fact has been published repeatedly, that Tweed's imprisonment in Ludlow Street Jail was merely nominal. He had the freedom of the city just like any other citizen. He could drive out in the morning with a keeper for his coachman and a warden for his footman, and dined at his own house, with a bailiff for a butler. There was no real attempt to deprive him of his liberty, as the law required. The law! But what is the law in New York, when the criminal is rich? Because Tweed was rich this jail was only a lodging house to him, and that he inhabited it at all was a simply a prudent compliance with certain formalities. Other criminals could hardly put their noses through the bars, but this millionaire of a public robber had the doors of the jail obsequiously unlocked for him whenever he chose to order. Justice, in fact, was his valet. It was New York justice, however, and not the beautiful abstraction which we believe in, that lives in upon the theory that faith is the evidence of things that are not seen.

[From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.]

It does not require a considerable effort of the imagination to detect official connivance in the execution of what seems to have been a well contrived plan.

[From the Philadelphia Times.]

There is little doubt that Tweed's escape was carefully prearranged and liberally paid for, as were all the many extraordinary favors conceded to him while in prison. Difficult as it would be to conceal the peculiar face and figure of this weak and unwieldy old man anywhere in this country, there is no likelihood of his being recaptured. Perhaps it is just as well. He has already paid dearly for his whistle. After undergoing confinement in the penitentiary for a year, he would be no sooner liberated on heavy bail—amounting to about $200,000—than he was sued in the civil courts for the $6,000,000 stolen from the city and had his bail fixed at $2,000,000. Most of his ill-gotten wealth had by this time been dissipated by litigation and in other ways, and, being unable to give the amount of bail demanded, was again arrested and confined. Now he goes into exile, and the bail under which he was held to answer the thirty-nine criminal charges against him is released, while the search to recover out of his property will go on. The little remnant of fortune which he may have saved in a moveable form to carry with him into exile will be very far from what he has endured. His name is blasted and his health shattered. Lasting infamy has been brought upon his family. The remainder of his old age, supposing him able to elude his pursuers, must be passed in a foreign land, and even there the ineffable stigma of his crimes will follow and abide with him. The picture is not edifying, and we doubt if our Philadelphia Tweeds will dwell upon it with pleasure.

[From the Philadelphia Ledger.]

The warden of the New Street Jail in New York, who had Tweed out for an afternoon's recreation, and who sent word back to the jail that Tweed had "escaped," might just as well have sent back an announcement that he had taken the $6,000,000 plunderer out for the direct purpose of setting him at liberty, for there is not a human being at the age of discretion who is likely to hold any other opinion of the wretched pretext of "escape." Tweed had got very nearly, if not quite, to the end of all the legal quirks and devices by which he had so often secured "the law's delay." Further prosecution had become so difficult as to be well nigh impossible, and there was but little chance left for the further interposition of the High Court of Appeals, whose decrees he, and those him and his accomplices such good service on several occasions—as the severe handling which the proceedings of that court has received at the hands of competent and fearless critics must have sickened its members of their share in the business. There was nothing left but flight in order to avoid further criminal prosecution, and how easy it was to accomplish that, was, the "escape" of Saturday has demonstrated. His aim is to get free enough to meet Sweeny and Connolly in Canada, and not stop the suits for the recovery of the $6,000,000. How he must repent that he ever became a "Boss!" What remorse he must suffer daily and hourly that he did not remain honest! And what a life the wretched old culprit must lead, even if he should avoid recapture.

[From the Philadelphia North American.]

Boss Tweed, the head of the gang of thieves who robbed the public treasury of New York city of so many millions of dollars, has escaped from custody by one of those tricks so common in hopeless cases. He was a prisoner in Ludlow Street Jail, and was taken by the warden of the jail to see his wife at her residence, and while there was allowed to see her alone, during which absence he escaped. Of course an immense sensation was caused by the event, and the usual vain search was made everywhere. This man may be said to have been the most powerful and bold and daring robbery of the treasury that has become so notorious as the work of the Tammany ring. Many men, some of them respectable and influential, were ready enough to share in the plunder, but not one of them would have had the courage and hardihood to lead in the stealing or plan out the scheme. It was for this man to fall in the odium, and no punishment that he has suffered can be considered adequate. He is the type of a numerous class of politicians in our communities, who have brought our institutions into contempt, and rendered the elections very often farcical. It is to be hoped that he will be caught, but law is such a strange affair in New York that it seems doubtful to have for its aim the protection of rascals rather than of the community. The whole case is so disgraceful that Tweed is not caught again somebody ought to be severely punished for rendering his escape possible.

[From the Baltimore American.]

There is probably no man living who is a greater criminal than Tweed. The murder of one or a dozen men would be less an injury to society of infinitesimal importance when compared with the debauchery of public morality, the corruption of all branches of the civil government, the encouragement of vice and dishonesty which were the results of Tweed's crimes. His immunity from penalty is a reproach to our institutions, and adds immensely to the mischievous influence of his career. The spectacle of a criminal escaping to a foreign country, there to enjoy the fortune he accumulated by his robberies of the public funds, will strike a terrible blow at public virtue. It were better that Judge Lynch had asserted his jurisdiction, and that the corpulent body of the thief had swung lifeless and ghastly from a lamp post.

POLITICAL.

BOSTON METHODISTS WANT GRANT RE-ELECTED.

BOSTON, December 6.—At a meeting today of the Methodist Episcopal Sabbath School Union and the Tract Society, and also the weekly meeting of preachers, comprising nearly two hundred ministers, Bishop Haven urged as a measure of safety for the public the renomination of General Grant for President. His views were adopted by a unanimous vote.

GEORGE LEAR APPOINTED ATTORNEY GENERAL.

HARRISBURG, December 6.—The Governor to-day appointed George Lear, of Bucks county, as Attorney General of the State of Pennsylvania.

FIRE RECORD.

Nicholasville, Ky.—$18,000.

CINCINNATI, O., December 6.—A fire at Nicholasville, Ky., on Saturday, destroyed J. L. Alvenson's furniture store, loss $6,000; the dry goods stores of J. C. Masters, loss $10,000; Dewton Dickson, $1,000; T. B. Cutcher, $2,000; Noland & Brother, $2,500; Hamilton & Dean, $2,000; J. B. Sparks, $5,000. The insurance on the whole was about $18,000; insurance companies not stated.

R. B. Ford, of Chicago, connected with the *Commercial Advertiser* as editor, and with the Metropolitan Printing Company as manager, attempted to commit suicide yesterday afternoon by shooting himself in the region of the heart. He was expected to die before this morning.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

ORGANIZATION OF THE HOUSE.

The Republican Minority Show Some Strength.

The Democrats Not to Have It All Their Own Way.

CONCILIATORY NOTE FROM SPAIN.

SENATORIAL BUSINESS FOR THE SESSION.

Favorable Outlook for River Improvements.

Estimates for the Next Fiscal Year---Secretary Robeson's Report---Meeting of the National Democratic Executive Committee.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 6, 1875.

The text of the last Spanish note, about which so much has been said in the press of Europe and America, was received at the State Department to-day. It is quite lengthy and deals with the questions at issue in a friendly spirit, and is, upon the whole, more satisfactory than was anticipated. It has been nearly three weeks in reaching here from Madrid.

The New House in Session—Ability of the Minority.

The novelty of a Democratic House of Representatives, the first in eighteen years, and doubtless the last for some time to come, attracted a large concourse of people to-day, to witness the organization. The first day of the session had an importunate beginning for three aspirants to the leadership, Messrs. Morey, of Louisiana, presented his certificate from McEnery and Kellogg, Fernando Wood objected to his admission on Kellogg's certificate. In this he was supported by Cox and Banks, Blaine spoke in favor of Morey's admission and carried his point, Morey being accordingly admitted by all that the Republican minority in the present House is the ablest that ever sat in that body. Judging from to-day's proceedings they will make it a hard fight for the Democratic leaders before the session is through. Mr. Kerr does not expect to announce his committees for some days, nor does he propose to give any indication of how they shall be constituted, until he is prepared to announce them.

Admitted to Practice.

Charles W. Mackey, on motion of ex-Attorney General Black, was to-day admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the United States.

Senatorial Outlook for the Session.

There will be a Republican Senatorial caucus within a few days, to make some changes in the standing committees and to agree upon the leading measures which shall receive their attention during the session. There will also be some discussion of changes in the Senatorial offices. Senator Windom, Chairman of the Select Committee on Transportation Routes to the Seaboard, will call his committee together at an early day.

It is proposed to resume the work of last session in the hope that liberal appropriations may be obtained to prosecute the improvement of the navigable waters of the West.

Senator Chandler appeared in his seat to-day, notwithstanding his severe cold, from which he has been suffering for some time. The venerable Senator was warmly greeted by his fellow Senators as he entered the Hall.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 6, 1875.

REPORT OF SECRETARY ROBESON.

Secretary Robeson's report of the naval service for the year shows that the number of vessels of all classes and descriptions now borne on the navy register is 147, carrying 1,192 guns, and 152,492 tons measurement. Of these are sailing vessels of little or no value as part of an efficient force for either cruising or fighting purposes of the present day. Steam vessels, in addition to gunboats and ironclads and torpedo ships, number ninety-five, of which twenty-five are tugs. Of the remainder, thirty-eight are ready for use when required, and the remainder, fifty-two vessels, twenty one of monitor type, two torpedo ships and three never launched. Of all the vessels, eighty are available, including sixteen single-turreted monitor and torpedo ships. Details are given of the operations of the fleet on each of the six stations.

The Secretary has the following to say upon the condition of the navy: It is gratifying to be able to report that the navy is now in a stronger and more efficient condition than it has been at any time since the organization of the present administration. It is not very strong in number, nor in the classes of its ships, but what there are of them are in as good condition as it is practicable to maintain vessels of our class under the various and trying conditions to which they are in the nature of their service constantly exposed. A far larger proportion than ever before of our wooden ships are ready for service. Our iron-clad fleet is efficient, our storehouses are fairly stocked with ordnance, equipments and supplies, and we have on hand a fair supply of the best material for the building and repair of ships. The service has been placed in this state of efficiency, compared with what existed a few years ago, by utilizing, except in case of eight sloops built under special appropriation, what could be spared from current appropriations and from appropriations made during the Cuban emergency, and applying these means practically and steadily toward putting what was worth saving of the navy in good condition, and maintaining good condition as the state of the ships and the means at command permitted. The wisdom of this policy is, I think, illustrated by the strength of the navy to-day. It would also be well, I think, if Congress would afford means to finish at once all repairs of the five double-turreted monitors, since, when they be finished according to present design, our iron-clad fleet will be much more powerful, and they are, while undergoing repairs, useless for any purpose. Delays and the process of repairing them out of what can be spared from current appropriations not only cripples the department in all its other operations, but is, of course, very slow. With these added to it, our iron-clad force would, for purposes of defense, present a very substantial barrier to anything which would cross the seas and attempt to enter our ports.

POSTAL APPOINTMENTS.

The following is a list of postmasters appointed and postal changes in the State of Pennsylvania for the week ending December 4, 1875:

Postmasters appointed—L. M. Covert, Grant City, Venango county, vice Lewis Covert, resigned; James B. Siggins, West Hickory, Forest county, vice Madison Church, resigned; J. H. W. Little, Eagles Mere, Sullivan county, vice Christopher Peale, resigned; David Vance, Silver Creek, Mercer county, vice Thomas H. Mahon, resigned; Caty Marra Cortright, Hunters Range, Pike county, vice John Cortright, deceased; Cyrus Straw, Dirkus, Luzerne county, vice Tillman Beisel, not commissioned; Henry C. Wood, Kunkle, Luzerne county, vice George A. Shafer, resigned; John F. Blair, Woolstown, Lycoming county, vice Thomas Wood, resigned; Kenan Kinsley, Centreville, Franklin county, vice Samuel Kinsley, resigned; John D. Hall, Norristown, Montgomery, vice E. B. Hall, resigned; Jacob H. Fleck, West Green, Erie county, vice John A. Stolz, resigned; Hilard Hagen, Hadley, Venango county, vice L. Doolittle, resigned; David E. Helm, Quarryville, Lancaster county, vice W. Hollenbach, resigned; Hadley Henchill, Millport, Potter county, vice Joseph Mann, resigned.

Postmasters discontinued—Ingleside, Westmoreland county, Route 2,442, James Casey, postmaster.

ESTIMATES FOR THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

The Secretary of the Treasury to-day sent to Congress his book of estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, the following being the total recapitulation by departments:

Congress	$ 6,958,475
Executive, proper	78,400
Department of State	1,691,000
Treasury Department	171,193,287
War Department	57,430,499
Navy Department	22,792,455
Interior Department	46,564,125
Postoffice Department	9,862,714
State Department of Justice	3,830,000
Department of Agriculture	251,565
Total	$314,612,606

The appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, were $16,864,592 less than the estimates, and the estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1877, are $4,612,608 larger than the estimates for the previous year.

MEETING OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

An informal interchange of opinion of the members of the National Executive Democratic Committee took place to-day. There were present Augustus Schell, Chairman; John G. Thompson, of Ohio; Senator Randolph, of New Jersey; Senator McDonald, of Indiana; ex-Representative McHenry of Kentucky; Wm. H. Barnum, of Connecticut; Wm. A. Moore, of Michigan; James P. Barr, of Pittsburgh, and Abel Eaton, of Kansas, with A. D. Bank of Mississippi, as their Secretary. Mr. Schell, the Chairman of the Executive Committee, and also Chairman of the National Democratic Committee, was authorized to use his discretion in calling the committee together, with a view of designating the time and place for holding the next National Democratic Convention for the nomination of candidates for President and Vice President of the United States.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

England.

EXPLOSION IN A COLLIERY—TERRIBLE LOSS OF LIFE.

LONDON, December 6.—An awful explosion occurred to-day at the Swarthe main colliery, near Barnsley, Yorkshire. It is feared that more than 200 lives are lost.

LONDON, December 6.—An explosion in the Swarthe main colliery occurred at half-past nine to-day. There is nothing new to report except that there are hopes that the loss of life will not be so heavy as at first given. At the time of the explosion those who were able rushed to the pit bottom, but the drawing cage had been displaced. The bodies of the dead and injured are now being brought to the surface.

LONDON, December 6.—The colliery at which the dreadful explosion occurred today, belongs to Mitchell & Co., and is one of the largest in Southern Yorkshire. It is joined by underground workings with the Edmunds main colliery, where, twelve years ago yesterday, over three hundred persons perished. The works extend for many miles. They are entirely worked with safety lamps, under very rigid discipline, and were considered safe. At six o'clock this morning about three hundred men and boys descended and commenced work as usual. At half-past nine a terrific explosion occured. The exact position of the explosion is at present unknown, but the miners of all parts of the pit were startled by a loud report, followed by large volumes of smoke and after-damp. Those who were able rushed to the pit bottom, but the drawing cage was displaced. As soon as possible volunteers organized to search for the dead and dying, and those who had escaped. After being engaged for some time, the volunteers reported about noon that they met with great difficulty. They saw many who were alive but unconscious. It is impossible now to give the number lost. It is feared that the first report (two hundred) will be confirmed, though the managers of the colliery hope that many may be saved. Operatives in all the collieries of the district are on the spot, ready and anxious to render all possible aid to any of the sufferers. All the local surgeons have also arrived. All those rescued thus far are seriously burned and injured. Hundreds of men, women and children are congregated at the mouth of the pit, and as the disfigured bodies are drawn to the surface scene is of the most heartrending character.

The latest accounts from Swarthe colliery indicate that the total number of lives lost is 180. The explosion was caused by carbonic acid blasting operations.

ANOTHER COLLIERY EXPLOSION.

Another disaster of similar character is reported to-day in a coal mine, near Pentyrch, in South Wales. Twelve persons were killed and ten injured.

FAILURE FOR A MILLION AND A HALF.

LONDON, December 6.—The failure is announced of William Spatten & Co., linen manufacturers and bleachers, of Belfast and this city. Liabilities estimated at $1,500,000.

REVIEW OF THE BREADSTUFFS MARKET.

LONDON, December 6.—The *Mark Lane Express*, in its review of the grain markets for the past week, says that as usually severe winter, having completely stopped field labor and partially closed the Baltic, has caused the wheat market to harden somewhat, but owing to the quantity of grain in transit, there is little prospect of a material advance before spring. The character of the weather then will be unusually important. Should anything unfavorable happen, an advance of ten shillings would easily occur. Paris flour has recovered one franc. Good samples of wheat are rather dearer. The same remark applies to the French provinces, to Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria and Hungary. Rain has fallen in Northern Africa.

IMPORTANT MISSION TO EGYPT.

LONDON, December 7, 6 A. M.—The *Times* gives prominence to the announcement

The Commercial.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1875.

BRAG (RANDALL) is a good dog, but a holdfast KERR is better.

THE Liberals and Independents did not go into the Democratic caucus. There is hope of them yet.

THE *Post* smiles like a silver plate on a coffin over the election of KERR and the defeat of RANDALL.

THEY have odd names among the Lord Mayors of London. Last year they had a STONE. He was a very heavy dignitary. This year they have a COTTON. He will probably turn out flatty.

THE value of the foreign exports from Boston last week was $527,399, against $457,360 for the corresponding week last year. The total exports during the year amount to $31,167,294, against $26,691,921 for the relating period of 1874, a gain of $4,465,283.

THE domestic exports of Philadelphia to foreign ports during the month of November amounted to $3,371,556, against $1,938,064 for the corresponding month last year, a large increase. Of these exports foreign vessels carried $2,538,953 and American vessels $832,603.

JUDGE DAVID DAVIS is said to be working up a Democratic "movement" in his own behalf, with a view to the White House. He is not disposed to follow the policy of WAITE. The Presidential fever has struck him badly, and it will, if not suddenly checked, carry him off.

GEORGIA is gradually filling up with cotton factories, which continue to arise on every hand. The Memphis *Avalanche*, in noticing the latest enterprise of this kind, predicts that the time is not far distant when a very large proportion of the cotton grown in the South will be manufactured at home, not only for domestic supply, but for export.

THE sale of the Davenport and St. Paul Railroad, which was to have taken place this week, is indefinitely postponed, a serious quarrel having arisen between the foreign and home bondholders of the road, the latter demanding the face value of their bonds, which were hypothecated to them at a large discount, and the foreign parties refusing to concede this.

ONE of the rebel members of Congress, excited by the applause given to LAMAR'S speech in the Democratic caucus, exclaimed: "Here (in the hall of the House of Representatives) is where the fight commenced (in 1861), and here we will fight it out." All right. Go ahead and stir the fight up again. You will find us as well prepared for it now as we were then.

TAMMANY has had two grand triumphs first in the choice of KERR over RANDALL, and second in the escape of TWEED. Both cases were managed very skilfully, and Tammany showed as great ability in getting her used-up Boss out of the way as in getting a new tool into power at Washington. The old harridan has life in her yet, and seems to have as much force as ever.

"THERE is a studied effort among members from the South to prevent any combination for unity of action and to avoid the charge that the South desires to dictate either as to the course or policy to be pursued."—*Washington letter.*

In other words, they feel now that they have all the symptoms of coming power, and think that by careful nursing these will presently be made to bloom out as bravely as they did in the palmiest oligarchical days.

GOVERNOR HARTRANFT has appointed Hon. GEORGE LEAR, of Bucks county, Attorney General of the State, in the place of SAMUEL DIMMICK, deceased. Mr. LEAR was the President of the Republican State Convention last year, and was a candidate for the Republican nomination for Congress from his district in the campaign of 1874. His appointment secures to the Commonwealth an upright and efficient law officer.

A SINGULAR fact, and one worthy the attention of scientists, is, that the flint arrow heads found in the recently discovered prehistoric burial or battle ground in Eastern Kentucky, are invariably one form, acute-angled, the base being one-half inch, and the sides one and a half inches in length, seldom larger or smaller. The flint from which they are made is generally of a dark color, light colored material being the exception. The monument in question is in stances of the same form of implement is a fact of considerable interest in American archæology.

THE New York papers are indignant at the escape of TWEED, and plainly charge that the escape was connived at by the officers who had him in charge. He was taken out several times by his jailers to see his family and dine at hotels, so as to accustom the public to the fact that he was a favored criminal, and then he is taken out, finally, in the same way as to give him every chance to run off. The tearing of the hair and the wild demeanor of his son and son-in-law when they found he had got off were very dramatic, but they will not deceive any one.

A WASHINGTON correspondent of the St. Louis *Republican* telegraphs as follows respecting the probable course of KERR on the Texas and Pacific road subsidy:

"He is not in favor of railroad subsidies, but recognizing the importance of the proposition to aid in the construction of the Texas Pacific, he would appoint a committee on Pacific Railroads that would bring the subject before the House at the earliest practicable day, to be decided by that body on its merits, free from any unfavorable bias."

This accounts probably for the unanimous vote given for him by the Missouri delegation, which settled the contest in his favor.

JUDGE HOLT, who has just resigned the office of Judge Advocate of the United States Army, filled that position during the trials of the assassins of President LINCOLN; the trial of the jailers of Andersonville and Libby, and the imprisonment of JEFF. DAVIS in Fortress Monroe. The fact that during those perilous historic days he proved himself a faithful and courageous public servant, moves the New York *World* to remark that his hands are "red with innocent blood," and that during his thirteen years of service "he has contrived to commit more villainy in the name of justice than any other man save FOUCHE or EUGUIER-TINVILLE ever perpetrated."

THE New York *World*, which should be good Democratic authority, confesses that the scene at Washington city, pending the contest for Speaker, would suggest to any looker-on "that the Democratic party was overwhelmingly composed of a set of nosy hail-fellows and bar room blackguards, intent upon nothing but office getting, bet winning and the spoils." FERNANDO WOOD also admits that it was "a low bar room fight," and altogether it would seem to have impressed the decent Democrats as a most shameful exhibition. But it was a characteristic one, and indicates that the party is controlled, at Washington as well as elsewhere, by the very worst elements of society.

THE election of KERR is not very satisfactory to those Northern Democrats who are not in thrall to Tammany. The New York *Herald*, which is anti-Tammany and anti-TILDEN, announces it as "the Restoration of the Bourbons," and says:

From the very beginning Mr. Kerr has been supported by the Bourbons of the Democracy. He represents that element which has labored since the beginning of the war to return the Democratic party to the position it occupied under Buchanan. His success as Speaker is virtually a repetition of the policy which made Cockrell Senator from Missouri, Wallace from Pennsylvania and Eaton from Connecticut. It shows that the leaders of the Democratic party have learned nothing from the results of the war. They are as stiff-necked in accepting the consequences of that great event as Pharaoh when he held the people of Israel and would not let them go.

RANDALL was sure he would have eighty votes on first ballot, and got but fifty-nine; RANDALL was sure of winning all the way through; RANDALL had nearly all the newspaper correspondents stuffed with the idea that he could not be beaten; and RANDALL had the "call" in all the gambling pools; and yet, after all, RANDALL never came within hailing distance of the Speakership. How is this to be explained? There can be no question he had promises of support sufficient to put him through if they had been kept. Why, then, were they *not* kept? Does the fact stated by the correspondent of the New York *Times*, that money was brought into the contest in sums sufficient for effect, account for the result? And is it possible that a reform Congress—a Congress that is bound to distinguish itself by hunting out corruption—has begun its career of reformation by an open encouragement of bribery?

NO ONE was able to get a nomination from the Democratic caucus held on Saturday last who could not show a clear record in favor of the rebellion. The Speaker and the Sergeant-at-Arms, the only Northern men chosen, were both Northern men with Southern principles, as well during as before the war, and both were chosen because of their well-known subserviency to the South. The Clerk is a notorious Kentucky rebel; the Doorkeeper was formerly Doorkeeper of the Confederate Congress; the Postmaster was a rebel, driven out of the Alexandria postoffice for his disloyalty; and the Chaplain was exiled from Connecticut to Washington because he persisted in giving aid and comfort to the rebels during the war.

These are not accidental happenings. The men required to were chosen for these places solely because of their rebel record. The Chaplainship; we are told, in the history of the caucus proceedings, was given to the successful candidate after a speech by Mr. BARNUM stating the reasons why Connecticut grew too hot for his continued residence there. *That* settled the contest in his favor. To have been a rebel, or a friend of the rebellion, was essential to the success of any one, in that caucus.

Connecticut permitted a great many men who were bitter rebels at heart, to remain within her bounds during the war, and even permitted men like Senator EATON to express openly their affiliation with the rebels; what, then, must have been the depth of bitterness attained by the Democratic candidate for Chaplain, when even tolerant Connecticut drove him forth from her bounds? He must have been infinitely worse than EATON; and the Northern people had about made up their minds that that was impossible.

The organization of the House, therefore, has demonstrated that this is a rebel Congress. The Southern orators are constantly imploring us to forget that there was a war; but the Democracy are determined that we shall not have a chance of forgetting it.

A CORRESPONDENT of the New York *Evening Post*, speaking of TENNYSON'S splendid poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade," recalls the circumstance that as the brigade was advancing through the "valley of death," Captain NOLAN, the aide-de-camp from headquarters who had delivered the order to Lord CARDIGAN, had his heart torn from his manly bosom by a Russian shell, and that while this incident was fresh in the admiration of the laureate, he wrote:

"'Forward the Light Brigade:
'Take the guns!' Nolan said!"—

and charges the subsequent change of the line to

"Charge for the guns, he said!"

to the fact that poor NOLAN was only a subaltern, and that it would not do to embalm his name in immortal verse. "Had he been a superior officer," says the writer, "the case would have been altered, and the line allowed to stand." This is thoroughly unjust to TENNYSON. Few men are freer from the pitiful vice of toadyism than he, nor has any poet in modern days more earnestly and loftily sung the essential spiritual equality of the race. Through all his more sustained poems there runs, like an undertone, the refrain:

"Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith than Norman blood;"

and none has expressed with a higher or nobler strain of the coming of that better time of peace and good will—

"When the war-drum throbs no longer and the battle flags are furled,
In the parliament of man, the federation of the world."

THE reactionary elements of Congress had things pretty much their own way in Saturday's caucus. The nominee for Speaker is one of the straightest Bourbons in the House. He was against the war to the last, and by word and act did his level best to obstruct the measures of those who thought its prosecution a patriotic duty. Their choice for Sergeant-at-Arms fell upon a supple Northern doughface, the nominee for Doorkeeper held a similar position in the rebel Congress, and the successful candidate for Postmaster was a leader in JEB. STUART'S cavalry. These offices control most of the patronage. The Chaplain himself was elected upon the ground that his secession sympathies during the war rendered him so unpopular with his fellow citizens of Connecticut that he thought it advisable to leave the State. And yet it seems that the Southern Democrats are greatly disappointed and disgusted with the action of the caucus because it did not toss everything into the lap of the extremists. "Our fellows," said a prominent Louisiana fire-eater, "are all going home. Loyalty has been the standard." Joy go with them. Like the Tennessean who, during "Old Hickory's" administration, came all the way from that State seeking a foreign mission, and finally tapered off with asking for a pair of the General's old boots to aid him to get home, it is probable that some of these disgruntled rebels will be glad enough to accept of the smallest trifle to enable them to get away from the capital.

NOTHING could more plainly prove the fact of overproduction, and its evil effects, than the recently ordered suspension of coal mining in the Schuylkill region. Notwithstanding the six months' suspension of last spring and summer, caused by a strike in the Lehigh and Schuylkill coalfields, the production, up to the first instant, was, putting the products of all the coal fields together, several hundreds of thousands of tons ahead of the product of last year. The production is more than equal to the demand, in spite of strikes and other drawbacks, and it is now clearly apparent that the means of supply are too large for the prosperity of the trade. The Eastern market can consume about 25,000,000 tons annually; but the sources of supply are equal to the production of 40,000,000 tons, and perhaps 50,000,000, if pushed to their full capacity. The only recourse, under such circumstances, is to enforced idleness. The mines cannot be worked all the time without overstocking the market; and hence the suspension of work, at the most inclement season of the year, for want of a market. There is too much capital invested and too much labor employed in this business, and the problem is how to arrange matters so as to bring about a proper equilibrium between supply and demand. The only present remedy for overproduction seems to be to cut off the supply.

IN EXAMINING the grain traffic of the navigation season just closed, the Buffalo *Commercial Advertiser* finds that the extraordinary and unwise competition of the railroads for the grain business during the greater part of the season forced prices down to the very lowest figures. The roads carried flour and grain at a loss, and only the largest and most economical vessels on the lakes found any profit in it. The average rate by lake for November was a little over a cent higher than that for the corresponding month of 1874, but it was a cent and a half below that for the same month in 1873, and less than fifty per cent. of the November rate in 1872. By canal the same peculiarities appear. The average rate on wheat to New York was 10.5, against 9.7 cents in the year preceding, 12.5 cents in 1873, and 16 cents in 1872. With the exception of 1874, the average rate by canal last month was the lowest on record for November.

EXPERIMENT has demonstrated that the fibrous plants jute and ramie will grow wherever cotton does and without labor, furnishing a cloth that has the beauty of silk at but a tithe of the cost. The difficulty has been that the fibre of neither the jute or the ramie could be separated from the bark by hand as in Asia. The Philadelphia *North American* states that a process, combining acids with machinery, has lately been discovered, by which the separation can be performed for one-fifth the Asiatic price. If this announcement is true, the South adds a very great sum to its revenue at once; and the factories of the country, continuing all their employment on cotton and wool, will be obliged to furnish many markets with jute cordage and bagging, cheaper and better than hemp or flax, and with the inexpensive substitutes for silk that are enabled by ramie.

The right cue. President McCosh, of Princeton College, has caused five billiard tables to be placed in the college gymnasium, believing in this way the temptation of the student to visit miscellaneous billiard saloons will be in part removed.

The Tammany Society was originally organized for charitable purposes. Its leaders have acted on the principle that "charity begins at home," and have never helped anybody but themselves.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Hymn of the Capital:

'Oh, what a clatter!
What is the matter?
The beggars are come to town.
Some in rags,
And some in bags,
And some in velvet gowns."

Congress and confusion are in session at Washington.

The Kansas wheat mills are running night and day.

The bell boys at the Galt House in Louisville are all girls.

The itch for office can't be scratched out from the Democracy, anyhow.

Plymouth church says "Go, West," but he doesn't seem inclined to budge.

While O'Conor, the legal prosecutor of Tweed, is dying, his legal prisoner is flying away.

A case of caps. Harper's Ferry, Va., has a citizen whose autograph reads: S. T. S. J. B. V. M. B. Case.

The next raid will probably be on the New York and Boston Custom Houses. "Let no guilty man escape."

The Secretary has revoked his recent order doubling the duty on washed wools, and re-established the old tariff.

The total monetary coinage of the United States mints last month was 6,200,990 pieces, of the value of $4,200,790.

"Science has discovered that gas can be made from smells." Now we begin to see the utility of a Democratic Congress.

American goods are so popular in China that our trade marks have been forged by English exporters to sell their fabrics.

Here's your chance, Eli Perkins! The Centennial Commissioners will award a premium for pure bred jackasses of over six years.

And now the echoes of that memorably defiant and historic Tweed interrogatory, "What are you going to do about it?" come up again.

Growing. The Colored Methodist Episcopal Church has now four bishops and a membership of 200,000 in the Southern and Western States.

A baby in Nashville came upon the stage of life in a private box at the theater there the other night during the performance of the play.

The Egyptian debt is about $350,000,000, principally in the hands of British holders. It looks as though John Bull were getting ready to foreclose.

The suggestion of a statue of John Brown, to be erected at Harper's Ferry by English subscriptions, is fiercely denounced by the Southern press.

The Kansas Legislature proposes to pass an act providing that persons shall be recompensed for destroying both grasshopper eggs and the insect.

Recent explorations have established the fact that a large portion of our supposed salt desert is covered with fine grass and every way fitted for stock raising.

A party of Americans held Thanksgiving on the top of one of the pyramids. They were not hampered for want of conveniences, having a hamper with them.

Disgraceful. Nevada has legalized gambling, and raises part of her revenue by the sale of permits to run "hells" for the blackleg fraternity and their customers.

The *Kindergarten Messenger*, the organ and advocate of kindergarten training in the United States, has consolidated with the *New England Journal of Education*.

Boss Tweed simply left New York for the benefit of his health. He was afflicted with cerebro moneygitis, and it was a case which nothing but a change of scene could benefit.

"They shall run and be glorified." The driving wheels of the first locomotive run in this country belong to the Hudson Railroad Company, and are to be exhibited at the Centennial.

Drawing conclusions. The proposition of the New Orleans *Bulletin* to substitute chemicals for the rope in capital punishment is received with great favor by the Chicago *Times*.

The Grand Jury of the Chicago Criminal Court on Saturday returned nine new election indictments. Eight were against judges of election and one for illegal voting. All were Demo rats.

There was an excellent grasshopper crop in Blue Earth county, Minn., this season. The people gathered 15,766 bushels and 18 quarts, on which the State paid bounties to the amount of $31,255 06.

The prospect is said to be that the improvement of up town real estate in New York next season, will run almost entirely in the direction of houses built in flats, after the European manner.

STATE NEWS.

Diphtheria has taken a fatal turn at Tamaqua.

There were sixteen deaths in Reading, last week.

A fire company is in process of organization in Clarion.

There is complaint in Reading, as elsewhere, that rents are too high.

The Reading Benevolent Society has decided to establish a bureau of employment.

Never satisfied. Clarion has just got used to her new water works, and begins to cry for gas works.

Mrs. McFadden, of Harrisburg, fired twice from a window at a chicken thief in her yard. He left.

A Parkesburg man has worn the same suit of clothes for the last twenty-five years, and will wear it to the Centennial.

Five cows belonging to Robt. P. Harlan, of Southampton, broke into a corn field and ate so much grain that it killed them.

The hog cholera is very destructive about Harrisburg, John Garmrn, a farmer, having lost sixteen head, and five others, thirty-five head.

Lewis Wood, of Dolington, died on the 29th ult., from the effects of injuries received during a scuffle with a companion at the village hotel.

At Lancaster fairs they vote chairs "to the laziest man on the police force." A large number of votes is not considered an evidence of popularity.

George Gleim, Esq., has resigned the cashiership of the First National Bank of Lebanon, and John W. Mish, Esq., has been elected to fill the vacancy.

Captain Frederick Missimer, aged sixty-five, committed suicide at a place two miles from Pottstown, on the 3d inst., by cutting his throat. He leaves property.

James Walker, a youth of Coolspring township, Mercer county, fell from a wagon a few days ago, and striking his head on a stone, was instantly killed. He was subject to epileptic fits.

A farmer near Mauch Chunk couldn't find a pen to sign a receipt for a Pottsville man. The two pursued and captured a turkey gobbler, pulled a feather from his wing, and made a pen of it.

On Friday morning, while Joseph Wild was digging a vault under a brewery in Pottsville, a large mass of loose ground and coal fell down, breaking both of his jaws and a leg and killing him instantly.

Victoria Carl, the woman mentioned as having been frozen on Monday night by being thrown into the canal from a buggy, below Harrisburg, will recover without the amputation of her limbs—so say the physicians.

Mrs. John Hendrickson, of Plain Grove township, Lawrence county, is anxious to receive word of her husband, John Hendickson, who left his home in June last, and was last heard of at New Lebanon, Mercer county.

Hyle, the maniac, who murdered Sarah Beatty in the Adams county almshouse on Thanksgiving day, by driving a broom handle into her brain, gave as a reason for the act that "she wanted to telegraph her soul to hell," and he stopped it.

Mrs. Mary Grant, a widow sixty years old, committed suicide at Pottstown on the 2d inst., by jumping from a window and breaking her neck. Her mind had been deranged for several years, and she had frequently made attempts on her own life.

A strange adventure with oxalic acid is related in the Sandusky (O.) *Register*. A woman near Berlin, bought a small quantity of oxalic acid; she had poured it in a cup, and was about to use it, when she heard one of her children crying up stairs; she hastily put the cup in the cupboard and ran to her child, who had fallen and hurt itself. The mother forgot all about the deadly acid, and the girl in setting the table put the cup containing the acid on the tray with the rest. In pouring the tea the lady did not observe anything in the cup, and filled it with the others. Her husband was served with the poisoned cup, and drank some of the tea, when he remarked that it had a very strange taste. His wife took the cup from his hand and sipped a little of it, when she was immediately seized with convulsions and violent vomiting. Her husband, who had drank a good deal more of the tea than his wife, was not affected for three or four hours, when he too was taken with convulsions, accompanied with vomiting. By this time the wife had nearly recovered. The husband was very ill for some days but at last got about again and attended to his business; in the course of ten days, he was again violently attacked as before, and now it is believed that he will not recover. The wife is hardly over the impending calamity.

A FACILE SEDUCER.

He Weds Four Wives Consecutively.

Ruin of Trustful Females—In the Character of Pastor He Works the Blackest Evil—Barred at Last.

DECKERTOWN, N. J., December 1.—The news has been received here of the arrest in Ohio of a native of this township on the complicated charge of bigamy, seduction and embezzlement. The career of the man in question, Matthew B. Van Ostrand, is one of the most extraordinary and audacious in the annals of crime, and may be related as follows:

Van Ostrand is about thirty-five years of age, and was born a few miles from this place. His relatives are among the most respectable people in the county. He is a graduate of Lafayette College, and a man of splendid physique, winning address and superior culture. In 1865 Van Ostrand was married to Ella Penney, a daughter of one of the most prominent and wealthy farmers of this section.

Van Ostrand, with capital furnished by his own and his wife's relatives, embarked largely in the dairy business, and enjoyed the confidence of the farmers in the neighborhood to such an extent that large sums of money were intrusted to him by them, his due bills being considered ample security therefor. About two years after he was married he failed in business, involving his farmer patrons in numerous difficulties.

THE INDIGNATION OF THE PEOPLE

who had trusted him—his failure being considered a very questionable transaction—was so great that to escape the punishment he merited he fled to Canada. His wife followed him thither. For some time his friends continued to back him largely in his business transactions, when his reckless conduct and dishonest management caused them to withdraw their support, he having squandered nearly $100,000 of their money. Meantime his treatment to his wife and two children became such that the former was compelled to leave him. It is said that during the latter part of his career in Canada he habitually brought to his house women of notorious character, maintaining them for days at a time, and compelling his wife to act in the capacity of servant to them.

After his friends refused to be responsible for him, and his wife had left him, being thrown upon his own resources, he deserted Canada, leaving heavy creditors there, and took up his quarters in Lockport, this State. He was given a position of trust in a financial institution of the place, and became the accepted lover of

THE THEN ACKNOWLEDGED BELLE OF THE CITY,

a Miss Tucker. After a residence of a few months in Lockport he was married to this young lady. They had lived together but a few weeks when his antecedents in some way became known, and to escape arrest he fled the place, taking with him a considerable sum of money belonging to one of his patrons.

From Lockport he went to Ohio and settled in Columbus. He became the associate of local capitalists in extensive real estate and other speculations, his services being accepted as ample offsets to the money of the others. He was looked upon as a rising and prosperous young man, and professing the strictest morality and piety, soon came to be held up as

A MODEL FOR THE YOUTH

of the city. He won the affections of Miss Georgie Vail, the daughter of one of his wealthy business associates, and was to have married her in 1870, great preparations having been made for the ceremony. A few days before the wedding day another of Van Ostrand's business associates made the astounding discovery that he had forged the latter's name to notes to the amount of $5,000, and had negotiated them. Investigation of the matter proving that there was no doubt of the guilt of Van Ostrand, he was arrested. For the time great indignation was manifested by Van Ostrand's friends at what they termed the outrage on their favorite, and his prospective father-in-law became security for the accused for his appearance at court. Before the trial it was discovered that Van Ostrand had perfected his plans for running away from the city, and he was at once delivered into custody by his bondsman. He was tried on the charge of forgery, and the evidence was so conclusive that he was convicted and sentenced to

FOUR YEARS IN THE STATE PRISON.

He served two years and was then pardoned by the Governor of the State.

The young lady to whom he was to have been married died of grief and shame during the first year of his imprisonment. After his discharge from the Columbus prison, Van Ostrand went to the village of Delaware, Ohio. He represented himself here as the Rev. Amos Ryerson, and produced papers certifying that he was a duly ACCREDITED MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL,

of the Presbyterian faith. It chanced that the pastor of that church in Delaware was an aged, but beloved old man, named Roberts, and for some years had expressed a desire to retire from the pulpit. Van Ostrand, alias the Rev. Amos Ryerson, was not long in gaining the affection of this rural flock of believers, and occasionally officiated for the old preacher. The result of this was that the Robertsville congregation called the church accept his resignation and call the young and brilliant Ryerson to the charge. This was done, and the Delaware Presbyterian congregation was the envy of other churches for miles around.

The old parson was well to do in the world's goods, and his daughter Effie was considered the handsomest girl in the village. Between her and the new pastor an intimacy sprung up which resulted in their marriage in October, 1874. The young couple lived happily for some months, when the love of the husband seemed to grow cold. In August last the

STARTLING DISCOVERY

was made that three young ladies, members of leading families in the village and the Presbyterian church were destined to become mothers at no distant day, and that they each charged the young pastor as having caused their ruin. A strong element of the church and town held to the innocence of the pastor, but his unceremonious departure from the place in the night, pending legal investigation, dispelled this faith, and the popular indignation was universal. One of the young girls died in giving birth to her child, according to story now told here, and another fled from her native place and is leading a life of shame in Cincinnati.

From Delaware the audacious scoundrel Van Ostrand, went to Springfield, Ohio, where he resumed his own name. He was not long there before he won the affections of a wealthy young widow of the place, and on the 27th of September last induced her to elope with and marry him. They returned to Springfield in a few days and were living in great style there, when the news of Van Ostrand's doings in Delaware village in some way reached Springfield, followed by an officer from that place with a warrant for his arrest. Again the villain managed to elude arrest. The friends of his last victim—who was rendered insane by the exposure of her supposed husband's true character—and the friends of his dupes in Delaware, combined together with the determination to bring him to justice in some way, and detectives were put on his track. He was traced to Windsor, Canada. A watch was set on his movements and it was discovered that he had already commenced laying his plans to ensnare another victim, in the person of a young French milliner named Jean Dubois. Inquiry made by the detectives elicited the fact that an acquaintance existed between the milliner and Van Ostrand, but that she had repelled any intimate relations. The situation of affairs warranting the move, the plot was matured in this city with Mlle. Dubois, in which they revealed the history of Van Ostrand, and succeeded in enlisting the cooperation of the milliner in

HIS CAPTURE.

The initiatory step in the plan adopted was for the young lady to appear to soften toward Van Ostrand. She yielded to his oft-repeated request to meet him at a rendezvous appointed by him. She failed to meet him, but instead sent him the following note:

"My friends are watching me and suspect me. I go to Cleveland next week to purchase goods. I will meet you at the United States Hotel there on Monday. JEAN.

"WINDSOR, Nov. 18."

The bait took, and Van Ostrand replied that he would be in Cleveland as requested. It is unnecessary to say that Jean Dubois did not go to Cleveland, but Van Ostrand did. He was met by the detectives, taken into custody, and carried to Springfield and lodged in jail. The news of his capture was greeted with universal joy, and a little fanning of the popular feeling would have resulted in his unceremonious lynching. He will be brought to trial at an early day, and there is not the shadow of a doubt that he will receive the full extent of the law's penalty, which is, doubtless, at its worst, far too light to meet the case of this unparalleled villain.

PERSONAL.

Think of a man's being named General Early Burd Grubb! He won the recent Baltimore pigeon match.

Dr. Scherschewsky has again decided not to accept the Bishopric of China, to which he was elected by the Protestant Episcopal House of Bishops.

The total value of Henry Wilson's property will not exceed $10,000. His library is not large, and very many of his books bear upon the fly-leaf, "With the kind regards of Robert C. Winthrop."

It is announced in the Boston *Evening Gazette* that Miss Kate Field has been for some months engaged in the actual and successful practice of her newly chosen profession upon the English stage. Since August she has filled, under an assumed name, engagements at Liverpool and Middleboro'.

A late number of the Providence *Press* says: "At the civil session of ... Justices Court this morning, a case of non-payment of rent was tried and one of the witnesses, a little girl ten years old, remarked that 'a man, calling himself a sheriff, turned us out of the house, but we found out that he was only a common lawyer.' The Court was convulsed with laughter at this sally."

Vice President Wilson was singularly remembered by he people of his native place, Farmington, N. H. Last Wednesday, while the bells tolled, the villagers on foot followed a boulder of ten tons weight, dragged by ten oxen, for nearly two miles to the acre lot on which stands the house in which Wilson was born, and there deposited the rough bowlder as a monument. The acre was part of the farm of Colbath, Wilson's father, but was sold years ago to a wealthy manufacturer, Luther Hays, who gave it to Mr. Wilson. Apropos of which, the following from the Utica (N. Y.) *Observer* is interesting: We stated that the Vice President was born in a gypsy camp. This statement having been denied, we take occasion to literate it. It is literally true. There were in Strafford county, New Hampshire, early in the century, two wandering tribes of roving vagabonds, who dwelt in huts and tents and traveled from place to place, picking up a scanty subsistence by making and selling baskets and eking out their uncertain livelihood by fortune-telling, tinkering, etc. To one of these tribes the Olbaths belonged, and in their hut the departed statesman of New England was born.

They have curious Councilmen up in Philipsburg, Centre county. William N. Jones, a member of that body, publishes the following card "I have resigned my position as Councilman, for the reason that all of the Councilmen are compelled to take a solemn oath to do their duty, and when we do so there is a continual abuse piled on the Council, and for that reason I have resigned."

The Evil Fruits of Weak Digestion.

There is no pathological fact more clearly ascertained than that the most formidable phases of nervous disease are directly traceable to imperfect digestion. Insomnia, with its train of direful consequences, proceeds more frequently from weakness of the stomach than from any other cause. Mere sedatives are powerless to cure nervousness, and soon cease to palliate its symptoms. The true way to strengthen the nervous system is to invigorate the digestive and assimilative organs, upon whose unobstructed action its equilibrium is absolutely dependent. The daily use of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters will do more to brace and soothe the weakened and irritated nerves, and induce sound, refreshing sleep—nature's grand catholicon—than all the so-called nervines to be found in the pharmacopœia or out of it. A wine glassful of the Bitters should be taken before eachmeal.

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INSURANCE CO.,
43 South Diamond St., Allegheny City.
W. W. MARTIN.....President
JAMES E. STEVENSON.....Secretary.

Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,
NO. 61 FOURTH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH.
Assets January 1, 1873 - $778,251 56
CHARTERED IN 1852.
Open daily from 9 to 4 o'clock, and on SATURDAY EVENINGS, from May 1st to November 1st, 7 to 8 o'clock, and from November 1st to May 1st, 6 to 7 o'clock. Interest paid at the rate of Six Per Cent. computed from the first day of each month, and if not withdrawn compounds semi-annually, in January and July. Book of By-Laws, &c., furnished at the office. BOARD OF MANAGERS.
GEO. A. BERRY, President.
JOHN SCOTT, JAMES PARK, JR., Vice Presidents
D. E. MCKIN LAY, Secretary and Treasurer.
A. Bradley, J. L. Graham, A. S. Bell, Wm. R. Sinclair, John S. Dilworth, J. Rahm, G. Fullerton, Joshua Rhodes, S. H. Hartman, Robert C. Schmertz, Christopher Zug.
John H. Bailey, Solicitor.

MISCELLANEOUS.

International Exposition of 1876
UNITED STATES CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, } PHILADELPHIA, PA., November 24, 1875.
Messrs. John R. Neff & Co., having contracted with the Centennial Board of Finance, by and with the consent and approval of the United States Centennial Commission, for the exclusive right and privilege of publishing and selling the Official Catalogue of the International Exhibition of 1876 and of inserting advertisements therein, and said contract, together with the copyright of said Official Catalogue, having been transferred to the Centennial Catalogue Company, therefore said company and its agents are alone authorized to publish and sell the same, and no other catalogue or guide book of the Exhibition containing advertisements will be permitted to be sold within said Exhibition Grounds.
[Signed] JOHN WELSH,
President Centennial Board of Finance.
A. T. GOSHORN,
Director General U. S. Centennial Commission.

OFFICE OF CENTENNIAL CATALOGUE CO., } PHILADELPHIA, PA., December 1, 1875.
Messrs. S. M. Pettengill & Co., Advertising Agents of Philadelphia, New York and Boston:
GENTLEMEN.—This is to certify that we have this day appointed you our exclusive agents for the United States and Canada for the forthcoming Department of the Official Catalogue of the Centennial Exhibition of 1876. Yours, respectfully,
JOHN S. MORTON, Pres. ident.

S. M. PETTENGILL & CO.'S
NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING AGENCY,
NEW YORK, December 2, 1875.
We are now ready to receive applications for space in the Official Catalogue of the Centennial Exhibition of 1876. As the advertising space is limited to fifty one pages in the body of each book, those who want space should apply at once.

S. M. PETTENGILL & CO.,
37 Park row, New York.
701 Chestnut street, Philadelphia;
10 State street, Boston.

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THE
PUBLIC RECORD
Is the only One Cent Morning Newspaper published in Philadelphia, and the only One Cent Paper in the United States belonging to the ASSOCIATED PRESS.

The circulation and character of the PUBLIC RECORD commend it to every advertiser. It reaches a more varied class of readers than any other paper in the city. Its leading rates are from one-half to one other paper, in proportion to circulation, which is the main desideratum to advertisers.

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Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company,
OF PHILADELPHIA.
INCORPORATED 1847.
ASSETS - - - - $5,250,000
ENTIRELY MUTUAL.
The Penn Mutual is one of the oldest Life Companies in the country. It has made 29 annual dividends to its members since the year 1849, inclusive. It is managed economically; selects its risks carefully; pays its losses promptly, and is liberal in its requirements generally. Its dividends may be applied to reduce the premium the second year, or to increase the insurance. Its policies are non-forfeiting after the third annual payment. *Endowment policies issued at Life rates.*
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1875. 1875.
Fall and Winter Styles.
SILK HATS FUR
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Wholesale & Retail Trade.
JUST RECEIVED AT
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HAT HOUSE,
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PATENTS.
Persons desiring to procure Patents, or wishing to obtain information from the U. S. Patent Office, are advised to consult F. A. LEHMANN, of Washington, D. C., corner of Seventh and G streets, or Room 5, 16 Sixth street Pittsburgh.
Send for circular.

DRY GOODS.
SATUR
A Beautiful Display
AND EXTRAORDINA
During this month we shall offer some of the best bargains in DRESS GOODS, FLANNELS, &c., &c., we ever had the pleasure of offering.
At 10c., 12½c. and 18½c. Barrel Shirting Flannels.
At 18½c., 20c. and 22½c. Wool Heavy Shirting Flannels.
Heavy All Wool Barred Flannels, at less than usual prices.
Plain and Twilled Flannels, in Red, White, Brown and Gray.
PRICES EXTREMELY LOW.
Our immense stock of DRESS GOODS having been largely replenished in all the latest desirable fabrics, we are enabled to exhibit one of the most carefully selected and finest assortments of Dress Fabrics of every description, and at the Lowest Prices.
At 10, 12½c, 15c and 18½c, a large assortment of
DARK DRESS GOODS,
Worth double the money.
At 22½c. Mohair Serges, worth 25c.
At 20c to 87½c. Black Alpacas, extra good value.
At 50c to 93 50. Black Cashmeres, unsurpassed bargains.
At 25c. Melton Suitings, worth 30c.
At 81, 81 12½, 81 25, 81 37½ and 81 50.
Black Dress Silks,
Splendid Bargains.
At 81 75, 81 87½ and 92.
HAND SPUN DRESS SILKS,
An Extra Bargain.
FINE DRESS MATERIALS,
Of All Grades, at the Lowest Possible Prices.
Tycoon Repps, Colored Alpacas, &c.,
A Very Large Assortment.
WILLIAM
Nos. 165, 167
N. B.—Our "Ladies' Journal" is now Matter. Sample copy mailed free.
Success Beyond Our
Expectations has so far attended our efforts to satisfy the Wants of our Friends and the Public in giving them Good Value in
Dry Goods.
We still continue to offer inducements to buyers that cannot be surpassed in this or any other city in the Union.
Our stock is one of the largest in either city, and as we are constantly receiving
NEW GOODS,
Is always Fresh, Clean and Complete, and contains all the novelties as fast as they appear.
WE MAKE SPECIALTIES OF
Dress Goods,
Flannels and
Cassimeres,
For Men and Boys' Wear, and are giving special bargains in each department.
SPECIALTIES.
We desire particular attention to the following which for style our prices are beyond all doubt the lowest possible:
Black Cashmeres, 75c, 85c, 95c, 81, 81 10.
Black Alpacas, 25c, 27½, 45c, 50c.
Plain and Striped Poplin,

FINANCE AND TRADE.

MONDAY EVENING, December 6, 1875.

The reports obtained concerning the condition of the banks vary considerably, according to the classes of business and the individual circumstances of the banks reporting. Some bankers report at present that the demand for money is quite active, while others state that they have large unemployed balances on hand in excess of their utmost requirements for reserve. While all the banks are generally able to supply the needs of their customers, and, in most cases, to take such amounts of suitable paper as are offering from outsiders, the fact that in the cases referred to an active demand has been experienced, warrants the belief that there is an increased activity, although it is not such as to severely tax the resources of lenders. Rates of discount continue moderately easy, although bankers show less disposition to concede the extreme low rates granted at the times of the greatest plethora. In exchange there is more ease, the shipments of currency to the East having reduced the balances, and drafts on New York were offered to-day at par. Some are of the opinion that the market will now go to the other extreme, and that currency will be scarce, with Eastern exchange at a discount, which contingency the future alone will certainly determine.

—The course of the circulation under the acts of June 20, 1874, and of January 14, 1875, is shown pretty clearly by the extracts from the report of the Comptroller of the Currency already published. We find that since June 20, 1874, there has been a decrease in national bank notes of $4,307,280, in legal tenders of $9,604,939, and in fractional currency of $3,533,687, amounting in all to $17,445,906. The laws under whose operation this contraction was made, operated in favor of an increase of circulation by reissue, for about $30,000,000 greenbacks held as reserve against circulation, which may fairly be considered as more than an offset to the contraction which is thus shown. On the other hand, the greenbacks deposited with the Treasury for the retirement of national bank currency have increased $16,424,967. This must be considered as non-active circulation, as it is to remain where it is until exchanged for national bank currency, which will then be cancelled; consequently it is to be added to the $17,445,000 contraction already shown to exist, making a total contraction in the volume of outstanding currency of $33,870,000 in round numbers. This as already stated is to be set off against the $30,000,000 of legal tenders, released from service under the old law as reserve.

The New York *Bulletin* in calculating the effect of these changes on the amount of currency in active circulation, takes the amounts resting in the banks and the United States Treasury, and after making allowances for the outgo of currency for the crop movements, concludes that the diminution in the volume of active circulation is about one-half of the $33,000,000 alluded to above, the other half being accounted for by the decrease in the amount of currency lying idle in the banks. In the present inactivity of business this contraction can easily be borne, and, with the fall in prices that has accompanied it, is a natural movement. The *Bulletin* expresses a doubt, however, whether the machinery of these laws will work so well when business revives and more currency is required.

—The excitement over the savings banks in New York, which was so prominent last week, has about ceased, and there appears to be an end of the fight. The panic was caused by the discovery of almost criminal weakness and mismanagement in a number of the savings banks, and resulted in numerous runs and some failures, mostly of weak banks, which met the fate they deserved. The following named are the weak or insolvent savings banks: Abington Square—resources, $179,753; liabilities, $176,666. The resources include $4,316 of furniture. Central Park—broken. Clinton—resources, $178,791; liabilities, 178,068. This bank shows a manifest deficit. Eleventh Ward—resources, $729,159; liabilities, $716,629; investments doubtful. German Up-town—resources, $1,462,766; liabilities, $1,447,920; has taken sixty days' law. Institution for the Savings of Merchants' Clerks—resources, $3,904,133; liabilities, $3,724,429; assets include $230,025 of other States and $101,526 real estate. Mutual Benefit—suspended. People—broken; should pay seventy-five cents on the dollar. Security—suspended. Teutonia—resources, $2,053,219; liabilities, $2,000,495; doubtful. Third Avenue—broken. Traders'—resources, $106,584; liabilities, 104,650; manifest deficiency. Yorkville—liabilities, $41,485. Of its so-called $42,000 of resources $9,500 is in Alabama bonds at par. The Brooklyn savings banks are pronounced sound.

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day, furnished by the Fifth National Bank, No. 16 Sixth street:

December 6, 1875.	10:30 A. M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
Gold	114½	114¾	114¾	114⅝	114⅝
U. S. 6's, 1881, coup	...	...	...	...	...
U. S. 5's, 1865	...	...	...	...	...
5-20's, 1865, new	120	...	...	...	...
5-20's, 1867, registered	119¾	...	...	...	...
5-20's, 1867, coupon	122¾	...	...	...	...
5-20's, 1868	119¾	...	...	...	...
10-40's	117⅝	...	...	...	...
10-40's, coupons	117⅝	...	...	...	...
Currency 6's	120¾	...	...	...	...
New 5 per cents	116¾	...	...	...	...
Western Union Tel	75½	75¾	76	76	
Quicksilver	39	39¼	...	...	
Pacific Mail	40¾	41¼	41¼	41¼	
Panama	127	...	...	...	
Adams Express	103	...	...	...	
Wells-Fargo Ex	83	...	...	...	
American Ex	57	...	...	...	
New York Central	106	...	106	...	
Erie	16¼	...	16¼	...	
Michigan Central	61¾	64¼	64¼	...	
Michigan Southern	89¾	90¼	90¼	90¼	
Illinois Central	90	...	90	...	
Cleveland & Pittsburgh	96	...	96	...	
Chicago & N. Western	26	...	26	25¾	
Do preferred	65¾	...	...	...	
Rock Island	103¼	105	105	...	
St. Paul, common	25¾	...	26	...	
Do preferred	50	...	...	...	
Wabash, common	8¾	...	8¾	...	
Fort Wayne	88	...	...	...	
Ohio & Mississippi	17¾	...	17¾	...	
Union Pacific	77	...	77	...	
Hannibal & St. Joe	12¾	...	12¾	...	
Hannibal & St. Joe, pf	20¾	...	20¾	...	
Iron Mountain	12	...	12	...	
C., C., I. & L. C	4¾	...	...	...	
Atlantic & Pacific	12	...	...	...	
Atlantic & Pacific Tel	20¾	...	...	...	

—The village of Little Falls, New York, has just had a private bank failure, that of Burke & Healey, who have suspended payment with heavy liabilities. The largest creditors are those who can least afford to lose, being factory girls and the laboring classes. Connected with the bank was a savings department. The women and children employed in the factories had deposited with the bank over $80,000, at least nearly per cent of which will be a total loss to them. Burke & Healey commenced the banking business a few years ago, and enjoyed the confidence of the community until recently. A year ago they built a banking house which cost $25,000. Both partners lived in elegant style, having erected two of the finest residences in the place. It now transpires that the bank is embarrassed for $40,000, and that there are incumbrances on all the property of the firm amounting to its full value. They claim that the money used in building the bank, and large sums in speculating in Standard Oil stock. The shop and bank—$15,000 in a knitting mill project. It seems that they commenced business without a dollar of their own capital.

—A Baltimore dispatch of this afternoon says that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company commenced a drawback of three cents per hundred pounds on all grain brought to that city from Western points, which passes through their elevators for exportation to foreign ports.

[By Associated Press.]

Gold Closed at 114⅝.

MONEY.

NEW YORK, December 6.—Money 4@5 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 6@8 per cent. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $503,000. Customs receipts $420,000. Clearings $47,000,000. Sterling exchange firm at 484@487½.

GOLD.

Gold opened at 114¾, fell off to 114⅝, advanced to 114¾, and closed at 114⅝. Rates paid for carrying: 1@1¼ and 2 per cent.; loans also made flat.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Government bonds firm. Railroad bonds in good demand. State securities quiet. Stocks opened firm ½ to ¾ per cent lower than Saturday's closing prices, and declined from ¼ to 1 per cent. more, led by Union Pacific. Subsequently there was a very general recovery, except in Union Pacific, and in the last hour the shares were decidedly strong and Hannibal & St. Joseph preferred, being in Union Pacific, which rose from 75½ to 76¾, with no stock selling at the close under 76. The principal activity was in Lake Shore and Pacific Mail, the former advancing to 90¾ at the latter to 41¾, with sales of 41,000 at the highest prices reached. Northwestern common advanced ¾ and preferred ½, on moderate active dealings. Michigan Central advanced to 65¾, St. Paul to 26¼, preferred to 50¾, Ohio and Mississippi to 17¾, Rock Island to 105¾, Cleveland and Pittsburgh to 96¾, Panama sold at 127, Atlantic and Pacific Telegraph folded 20. Transactions at the Stock Exchange aggregated 116,000 shares, of which 32,000 were Pacific Mail, 11,000 Western Union, 3,300 Lake Shore, 2,500 Union Pacific and 2,500 Michigan Central.

The following were the closing quotations:

STOCKS.			
W. U. Telegraph	76¾	St. Paul	26¼
Pacific Mail	41¼	St. Paul, preferred	50¾
Adams Express	103½	Toledo & Wabash	4¾
Wells Fargo Ex	83	Do preferred	9¼
American Ex	57	Fort Wayne	88
United States Ex	54	Terre Haute	3¼
New York Central	106¾	Do preferred	20¼
Erie	16¼	Chicago & Alton	99½
Do preferred	27	Do preferred	105
Hudson River	134	Ohio & Mississippi	17¾
Do preferred	137	Indiana Central	13
Mich. Central	65	Burling'n & Quincy	114
Lake Shore	90¾	Hannibal & St. Joe	12¾
Illinois Central	93¼	Delaware & Lack	120
Cleveland & Pitts	96	Atlantic & Pac Tel	19½
Northwestern	29	Union Pac. stock	77¼
Do preferred	58	Central Pac. bds	100½
N. J. Central	93¾	Union Pac. bds	101¾
Rock Island	104½		

GOVERNMENTS.			
U. S. coupons, 1881	119¾	New 5's	117¾
5-20's, 1865	119¾	10-40's	117¾
5-20's, 1865, new	120	10-40's, coupons	117¾
5-20's, 1867	122¾	Currency 6's	121¾
5-20's, 1868	122¾		

STATE BONDS.			
Tennessee, old	44¼	Virginia, old	38
Tennessee, new	46½	Missouri 6's	102¾
Virginia, new	37		

GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, December 6, 1875.

Trade opened with a little increase of activity in some departments this morning, and transactions, while not very active, showed more animation than for some days past. The volume was fully up to the average, all things taken into consideration, especially the time of the year. The last week in November and the first week in December usually bring with them a very quiet time in all the markets, for various well understood reasons. It is the season of disturbing reports and rumors as to what Congress will, and will not, do at the session about to commence with reference to the finances, the tariff, and other questions more or less affecting mercantile and business interests. In addition to these, we have had various disturbing statements as near foreign relations—the effect of all of which naturally has been to induce extra caution in embarking in new ventures or extending engagements into the future. Added to these elements of suspense, the sudden cold weather, together with the approach of the end of the year, when merchants are usually busier in closing up old accounts than opening new ones, has each in its way an influence unfavorable to special activity in any direction.

In values to-day there were no especial movements, but some features of importance. In grain there is an active demand for new corn at firm prices, while oats are in light supply and show some strength at about 1c advance. Flour continues easy with a fair jobbing trade. Provisions show a little tendency toward softening, and the Western markets show a decided decline this morning. In groceries there was a rush in sugars, especially in granulated, with a weakening in cheese. Groceries continue to move steadily but rather sluggishly, with coffee steady and sugars continuing quite firm.

The Buffalo *Express* gives the following resume of the flour and grain trade of that port:

The November receipts by lake this year are larger than usual. Thus, including flour reduced to grain, the accounts stand:

	Bushels.
November, 1872	7,888,300
November, 1874	6,864,149
November, 1875	8,977,48...

But from the opening to December 1 the comparison shows decrease in the aggregate of over 4,000,000:

	Bushels.
Opening to Dec. 1.	
1872	50,506,69
1874	61,519,610
1875	57,179,824

While the total receipts at this point by lake and rail for the season of 1875 compare with those of last year as follows:

	1874.	1875.
By lake	61,519,610	57,179,825
By rail	32,482,680	24,770,750
Total	94,002,200	81,949,564

Thus the total falling off for the season is 12,060,636 bushels; but it is worth noting that the decrease by rail is just double that by lake. So, if the railroads have had anything to do with the reduction of the lake business, it cannot be attributed to those passing through this city.

The receipts of the leading articles of produce since our last are as follows:

Flour, bbls	3,325	Apples, bbls	675
Cheese, boxes	103	Corn, bus	800
Wheat, bus	41,500	Rye, bus	1,000
Oats, bus	3,550	Bacon, pcs	6,319
Bacon, lbs	45	Potatoes, bus	430
Hay, bbls	6		

The quotations given in the following reports are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales dealers will charge an advance. Sales of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free of elevator.

Grain, Flour and Feed.

GRAIN—There was some increase in the demand for corn and oats to-day, the supply being light for both. Wheat, rye and barley were steady and unchanged. The Chicago advices show a sharp decline and very low prices for both wheat and oats, while corn recovered slightly from the extreme decline at latter part of last week. Wheat is quotably unchanged, but under the low prices for spring wheat at Chicago show some ease. We quote Michigan white wheat at $1 40@1 42 ₱ bushel; Pittsburgh amber and Ohio at 1 33@1 37; prime sound red winter at 1 30@1 33; low grade do at 1 15@1 25; rejected do at 1 00@1 10, as to quality. Corn is rather firmer and more buoyant and firm, especially for new car, but no quotable advance can be made. We note sales of car lots of old shelled at 68c, on outside price; 1 car new do 50c, size being asked immediately after the sale; 1 car new ear choice 55c. We quote choice old shelled at 66@67c ₱ bushel for prime yellow; 64@65c for high mixed; 62@63c for low mixed; new car continues easy at 50@52c for mixed; 50@52c for choice yellow; new shelled ranges from 50@52c as to quality. Oats were brisk with an active demand, and rather light supply, about 16 advance being noted. We noted sales of 2 cars choice Western at 45½c; 1 car prime Indiana 45c. We quote choice Western white at 44@45c ₱ bushel; prime do 43@44c; mixed Pennsylvania white 41@42c; dark to light mixed 39@40c. Barley is quiet and rather easy but unchanged. We quote Canada at 1 30@1 35 ₱ bushel; choice spring at 1 15@1 25; common to good do at 90@1 10; choice fall at 1 05@1 15; low grades do 90c@1 00. Rye is steady and unchanged at 80@85c ₱ bushel for prime. Feeding prices of corn and oats remain as above quotations.

FLOUR—There is a steady, jobbing trade with a rather easy feeling in round lots. We quote the wholesale prices of the leading millers as follows: No. 1 white wheat flour $7 00 ₱ bbl; No. 1 amber do $7 50; red wheat flour $7 25; in sacks 25c off ₱ bbl. The jobbing prices of leading dealers for standard brands of flours are steady as follows: Choice brands of white winter wheat flour $7 75@8 00; well known brands of family flour $7 25; Wisconsin is quoted at $6 50@6 75; Minnesota $7 75@8 00; fancy do $8 50@9 00; choice patents $8 50@9 00; new red winter wheat flour is active at $8 25@6 50; Graham flour at $6 00@6 25; self raising flour, in ₱ packages, $5 25 ₱ dozen packages; cornmeal 50c per bushel; oatmeal $7 00 ₱ bbl; kegs $3 75. Rye flour $5 25 ₱ bbl.

HAY—Prime timothy is steady and brings full prices, while prime hay is very weak, car upland hay selling at $22 50, and car timothy at $16 00. We quote prime No. 1 timothy, on track, at $20@21 00 ₱ ton; No. 2 $18@19 00; upland prairie $12 00@14 00. Sales from store were steady at $22 00@24 00 for timothy.

MILL FEED—The demand is moderate and prices are slightly better. We quote bran at 80@85c ₱ cwt; seconds at 65@70 ₱ cwt; mixed feed at 75@80c; coarse chopped feed $1 00@1 10 ₱ cwt; oil meal $1 90@2 00 ₱ cwt.

Country Produce.

APPLES—There continues to be a firm feeling with a fair demand, but quotations are not material advanced. Choice eating apples sell at 50@60 ₱ bbl; large cooking at $5 25@5 75; common to medium grades in light demand at $2 50@3 00.

BEAN—Continue dull and depressed with a very heavy feeling. We note sales of small white navy beans are quoted in a jobbing way at $1 50@1 55 per bushel; medium $1 40@1 50; mixed lots as to quality, $1 30@1 40; a shade less from these figures.

BEESWAX—The market is quiet with little doing except in a jobbing way nominally 30@32c ₱ ₱.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—We quote buckwheat flour at $2 75@3 00 ₱ cwt.

BUTTER—The market showed considerable animation to-day in the demand for choice grades, and all the receipts of choice were taken readily at full prices. The offerings of low grade butter continue heavy and such qualities meet with a slow sales at low prices. We quote prime to choice dairy at 32@35c; fair to good 28@30c; common to fair 15@20c. The latest report from New York indicate a dull and unchanged market.

CHEESE—There is a rather slow market and prices show somewhat more ease. We reduce our quotations about ½c on Ohio and New York makes. We quote prime Ohio factory at 15@15½c; fair to good 13@14c; prime New Sweitzer 16@18c; Limberger 14@16c. The New York cheese market continues dull and heavy. Full skims 6@8c; part skims, 3@4 with prices nominally unchanged.

DRIED FRUIT—The situation is about as last reported, holders being steady and the demand moderate at full prices. Dried apples are in demand at 11@12½c ₱ lb for choice quarters; dried peaches are scarce and higher at 14@15c for choice halves; 12@13c for prime do; dried blackberries 12@13c.

EGGS—Are in good demand, steady but comparatively a little easier. There is a moderate demand at materially unchanged prices. Notions are quoted at 30c; strictly fresh packed made at 28@29c per dozen, with some dealers asking 30c; pickled are in good supply and easy at 21@23c.

GAME—The supply is liberal of the various kinds on hand and the demand light for good stock and prices are steady. We quote venison at 7c per pound for short saddles; 16@18c for long saddles; wood duck at 10@12c per pair; squirrels sold at 30@40c per pair, and rabbits at 10@15c per dozen. Quail were quoted at $2 50@2 75 per dozen; grouse $4 00@4 50 per dozen.

HONEY—New domestic honey is steady at 25@28c ₱ ₱; California quoted at 30c ₱ ₱.

HOPS—Business continues quite light, and the market is dull. Prices are nominally unchanged at 15c for prime 1875s.

MINCE MEAT—Prices are quoted at 10½@11c ₱ ₱.

NUTS—Chestnuts are easy at $5 50@3 75 ₱ bushel; peanuts are in fair request at easy prices; prime white Tennessee mixed nuts at 6½@7c, according to quality; Virginia 8½@9c; shellbarks are easy at $1 75 ₱ bushel; walnuts depressed at 6@7½c ₱ ₱.

POTATOES—The arrivals of car lots to-day were quite not very heavy, and shippers are proceeding very cautiously. The prices realized here are hardly sufficient to compensate for the risks of large shipments by a sudden change in the weather, which would be likely to damage the stock before it reaches its destination. Sales were comparatively steady to-day, the few arrivals on track being easily disposed of and the sales in jobbing lots being fairly held. We quote for round lots on track at 55@60c ₱ bushel for prime Early Rose; 40@45c for prime peachblows. From store there is a quiet but easy market at $1 40@1 50 ₱ barrel; 60c ₱ bushel.

POULTRY—There is a moderately active trade. Live chickens are quoted at 4½@5c ₱ pair; live turkeys 10c@11c. Dressed poultry: Chickens 12@13c ₱ ₱; turkeys 15@16c; ducks 13@14c.

SEEDS—Flax seed is quiet at $1 55@1 60; timothy seed is jobbing at $2 75@2 80 ₱ bushel. Clover seed $5 25@5 50.

VEGETABLES—Onions are in large stock. We quote at $3 50@3 60 ₱ barrel. Dried green peas are quotably at $2 75@3 00 ₱ bushel.

Provisions.

The market shows some indications of easing off in sympathy with the downward movement of prices reported from the West to-day; but the changes on the list here are not very important as yet, the only quotable decline from former prices being in dried beef hams, which are 1c lower, and mess pork, which has declined 50c. The latest reports from Chicago indicate a decided downward movement on the new crop of hog products. Receipts are increasing, being 19,000 to-day.

BACON—We quote shoulders at 10¼c ₱ ₱; hams at 14c; sugar-cured hams at 14½c; canvassed shoulders 11½@12c; breakfast bacon is quoted at 16c; dried beef easy at 14½@14½c; beef tongues, per dozen, $2 00; ham sausage 10c.

MESS PORK—The market is easy with a downward tendency. We quote at $23 00 per bbl.

LARD—We quote prime lard, refined, in tierces, 9½@10c; half bbls at 10½c; 10 lb buckets, 10c; in 5 ₱ caddies, 11c; in 5 ₱ caddies, 10½c; in 3 ₱ pails, 12½c; in 5 ₱ do; 11½c; in 2 ₱ do, 11½c.

LARD OIL—The market is easy. We quote extra No. 1 lard oil, current make, at 95@100c ₱ 10 per gallon; No. 1 do, 85c; No. 2, 75c.

TALLOW—We quote chandlers' tallow at 10@10½c; choice country rendered 9@9½c; medium do 7½@8c.

Messrs. Eggleston, Henness & Co. review the past week's provision market in Chicago as follows: "Our circular of the 26th inst. left the provision market dull, with prices pointing lower. Since that date the weakness has been more fully developed in pork and meats, the former suffering a decline of 50c in cash; 40c for the year; 30c in February. Meats fell off ½c to ¾c and were decidedly dull at the decline.

"Foreign orders in meats have generally been at reduced limits, while Scotch entry is small compared with previous weeks. Pack-

ers, in view of the marked falling off in this demand, have turned their attention the last few days to making mess pork, and we now look for an increase in our stock of that article, which has been meager thus far.

"Hogs began to arrive more freely about the middle of the week, which packers were quick to take advantage of and succeeded in getting prices down 5@10c per cwt. Receipts for the week 134,624; same week last year 205,115; since November 1st to date 746,596; same time last year 940,195. Shipments from November 1st to date 160,338; same time last year 234,494; leaving for packing and home use 586,257 this season, as compared with 617,771 in 1874."

Groceries.

The market was more active in some departments, but was generally quiet and the trade was rather below an average. Coffees continue steady, with Rio held firmly at former prices. Sugars were firm with an upward tendency under strong Eastern advices. Molasses was steady with a free movement. Prices current are as follows:

Green Coffees.	₱ lb.	*Sugars.*	₱ lb.
Fancy Rio	26 c	Standard A	10¾@10¾c
Choice Rio	25 c	Standard A, coffee	10¾@10¾c
Prime Rio	24 c	Do, extra C	10¼@10¼c
Good Rio	23 c	Extra C, yellow	9¾c
Java	30 c	Golden C	9½@9¾c
Roasted Coffees.		Franklin, B	9¾c
Rio, in papers	29 c	Cut Loaf	12¾c
Rio, in bulk	28@28½c	Granulated	10¾c
Java, in papers	35 c	Powdered	11¾c
Java, in bulk	33½c	Cumulated	11½c
Teas.		*Molasses.*	₱ gall.
Young Hyson	50c@$1 00	Str'y ch. N. O. new	70c
Gunpowder	50c@ 1 00	Prime	65c
Imperial	50c@ 1 00	Good	55c
Japan	55c@ 1 00	*Syrups.*	
Oolong	45c@ 1 00	Ex. white drips	70c
Fancy	1 00	Sugar drips	60c
Souchong	25c@ 85	Lower grades	45@50c
Rice.		*Starch.*	₱ lb
Choice Carlina	7½@8 c	Pearl	5 c
Patna	7½@8 c	Laundry gloss	9½c
Rangoon	7½@7½c	Corn	10½c
Louisiana	7 c	*Soaps.*	
Spices.		Irish soap, ₱ box	$4 25
Cloves	60 c	S. S. Star, ₱ box	5 75
Allspice	18@19 c	Babbitt's, ₱ box	6 25
Cassia	33@35 c	Do. N. Y. City, ₱ box	6 25
Nutmegs	$1 35	German mottled do	7½c
Pepper	25 c	*Candles.*	
Candles.		Bi-bark, in kegs	5 c
Star, full weight	18 c	Bi-bark, in 10-lb pkgs	5½c
Stearine	16 c	Bi-bark, in 5-pkgs	5½c
Mould	11@12 c		

FISH—A steady trade at firm prices is noted in fish, with a good demand. We present the following revised list of quotations:

	Per bbl.		Per bbl
Extra No. 1 Mess		Round do	5
mackerel	$34 00	Lake herring	4 50
No. 1 mess do	22 00	Large George's	
Ex. No. 1 shore do	28 00	codfish, ₱ lb	6½c
No. 1 shore do	25 00	Medium do	6 c
Ex. No. 1 bay do	22 00	Boneless codfish	
No. 1 bay do	19 00	do	7 c
Ex. No. 2 do	16 00	Halibut do	14½c
No. 2 do	15 00	No. 1 herring	40 c
Large No. 3 do	11 00	Scaled herring, do	50 c
Whitefish	5 75	Smoked bloat'rs	2 00
Labrador herring, split	$ 8 50		

Petroleum.

December 7.—There was a steady market in refined with a rather weak opening in crude at a slight decline from the closing prices of yesterday.

REFD.—There is an active market at a decline of about ⅛c from Saturday's prices. We quote Ohio united at 11 3/5c; Union at 11 2/5c; United do at 11 3/5c; Standard at 11 3/5c; Continental at 11 3/5c; Crown at 11 3/5c; Brilliant at 11 3/5c; Eagle at 11 3/5c; Imperial at 11 3/5c; Diamond at 11 3/5c; Keokuk 11 3/5c; Lily at 11 3/5c; Davenport 11 3/5c; Keokuk 11 3/5c; Leavenworth 11 3/5c; Louisville 11 3/5c; Memphis 11 3/5c; Nashville 11 3/5c; Chattahoochee 11 3/5c; Shreveport 11 3/5c; Louisiana 11 3/5c; Vicksburg 11 3/5c.

CRUDE.—Continue dull and depressed at 4½@4¾c ₱ gallon.

OIL BARRELS—Continue dull and depressed at $1 25 for city; $1 15 for country.

[By Western Union Telegraph.]

OIL CITY, December 6.—The *Courier* says: United at 32¾@33 39¾c; Condutt at 37½c; Union at 37½c; Forest Queen at 34¾c; Garfield at 32¾c; Petrolia at 3 3/4; Grant at 34½c. Total sales of well certificates 29,500 barrels; pipage paid do 12,000 barrels.

TITUSVILLE, December 6.—The *Courier* says: The market is dull and unchanged throughout the region. United closing at 34¾@34¾c. Upper Tide at 31 62¾@63, and shipments at 31 99¾. The total sales were about 30,000 barrels.

NEW YORK, December 6, closing 4.—Crude in bulk is without change and refined in bulk is easier in figures, with, however, a light trade. The closing prices were: Crude in bulk 7c for prompt; 7c for December; 7½c for January; refined 10¾c on spot; 10¾c for December; refined 12¾@12¾c for spot and December; wood 30½@31c; naphta 9¾c for prompt. At Baltimore refined is quoted at 12¾c. At Philadelphia 12¾c.

PHILADELPHIA, December 6.—Crude quiet; standard white 12¾c; crude 6¾c; cases 10¾c.

TITUSVILLE, December 6.—Market firm at 61¾@61¾c.

OIL CITY, December 6.—Market quiet at 61¾@61¾c.

ROUSEVILLE, December 6.—Market quiet but steady; quoted at 61 57½.

PARKERSBURG, December 6.—Market held at 61¾@62c.

PARKERS, December 6.—There is nothing doing yet; united 61 35½ bid and 61 35 asked; shipment 61 60.

[By Associated Press.]

NEW YORK, December 6.—Petroleum dull; refined 12¾@12¾c; crude 6¾@7c.

BALTIMORE, December 6.—Petroleum dull; refined 12¾c; crude 6¾c.

PHILADELPHIA, December 6.—Petroleum steady; refined 12¾@12¾c; crude in barrels 10¾c.

LONDON, December 6.—Refined petroleum 11@11¼d.

CLEVELAND, December 6.—Petroleum quiet but strong; standard white, 110 degrees test, 16½c; 150 degrees test, 18½c.

CRUDE OIL RECEIVED BY A. V. R. R.

Shipper.	Consignee.	Bbls.
S. Grange	Sunbeam Oil Works	80
S. Craig	Empire Oil Works	80
S. Craig	Standard Oil Works	533
G. M. Robinson	J. F. Bental	154
Total		1,021

REFINED OIL SHIPPED EAST BY A. V. R. R. December 4, 1875.

Shipper.	Consignee.	Bbls.
Standard O l Co. Warden	P. & Co. Phila	62
Vesta Co.	George Pohl, Phila	50
King & Goodwin. George Pohl, Phila		26
John Swan	George Pohl, Phila	25
King & Goodwin. John S Davis, Phila		5
Total		1,16

December 6, 1875.

Shipper.	Consignee.	Bbls.
Standard Oil Co. Warden	P. & Co. Phila	60
King & Goodwin. George Pohl, Phila		20
Total		87

Boots and Shoes.

The trade among the wholesale boot and shoe houses moves steadily with the season, compares, for the present season, quite favorably with that of the preceding year when there was a general cessation of work among the manufacturers. We find in the *Shoe and Leather Reporter* the following general remarks concerning the trade of Pittsburgh, which we copy as follows:

"The iron, coal and glass interests of Western Pennsylvania having suffered terribly for the past year, in a business point of view, it would appear probable that the shoe jobbing and manufacturing interests of that section would be affected thereby, but there is to some extent, and can be seen in the reduced amount of sales made, but the dealers or jobbers of Pittsburgh seemed to have had warning of the approaching storm and generally avoided its consequences.

"There are two shoe manufacturing firms in Pittsburgh, seven jobbing houses, and one auction and commission house. Their sales aggregate more than $1,000,000 yearly. Their trade extends in every direction throughout a great manufacturing region, and requires coarse, strong goods, as well as the finer kinds. Large sales are made to companies employing iron works, who keep general stores and supply the workmen and their families with all kinds of merchandise. This is the class of trade which has fallen off the present year, and it has served in such a shape that the question is beginning to be seriously agitated in this section whether or not protection protects to the extent that has been generally supposed. This part we leave to politicians, and proceed to give a sketch of the Pittsburgh trade in our lines.

The Boston *Advertiser* has the following concerning the trade of that city for the past week: "The shipments of boots, shoes and rubbers from this market to places outside of New England for the past week comprised 1,013 cases of rubbers and 12,887 cases of boots and shoes, against 13,280 cases of boots and shoes and 1,587 cases of rubbers for the same week last year. Total shipments since the list of January 1, 1875, 723 cases of boots and shoes and 44,278 cases of rubbers, against 1,159,863 cases of boots and shoes for the same period last year. The shipments from Lynn for the week have been 1,596 cases, against 1,467 cases for the same week last year. The shipments from Haverhill for the week have been 820 cases, against 970 cases for the corresponding week last year.

"A few representatives of some of the larger Western houses are here making arrangements for spring goods and have given orders for staple work, but no prices are fixed as yet, and not enough to be given done to fix values. The trade generally are more hopeful and cheerful than we have seen them for some years, and there is a universal belief that a good fair season's business will be done, and that there is less danger to be apprehended from failures than for a long time. Manufacturers, however, will be cautious in the matter of credits, and doubtful buyers will find no trade on extra prices. There have been a few factories started up this week, and the workmen on hand-made goods will be generally employed, but there is nothing like activity to notice, nor will there be until orders are more generally placed."

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Union Drove Yards, Allegheny.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, December 6, 1875.

The Market.

The market at the Union Drove Yards to-day was dull and unsatisfactory for the owners of live stock, except the very best "tops," and even they did not reach fabulous or outside prices. True, we did hear of some small lots of cattle selling up to $6 70, but are disposed to guess that these prices were very few and between. Choice cattle were in demand, still buyers were not disposed to pay more for them than could be realized for the carcass over the block, and they generally knew that whilst fair to good butchers' cattle met with a moderately active demand, all low grades were dull of sale.

The run of cattle received by rail, as will be seen by the annexed table, was unusually light, being only 478 head, against 830 last week. The number arriving in from the country around about would swell the number to some 600 head. The offerings would be mostly disposed of.

The run of hogs was heavier than last week, when the demand was fair, yet notwithstanding prices on all varieties of porkers ruled from 12½@25c lower. As usual a number of tail ends would be left over unsold.

The sheep market was pronounced by those who ought to know, a dull one. There was not a large amount of stock on sale, but the quality was of the common order, so common that the health officer seized and confiscated a lot of miserable scarecrows, only fit for dumping in the river.

The usual number of milk cows were on sale with prices being governed according to their qualities as milkers say from $40 00 to $75 00.

SALES.

As near as we could ascertain the rates of the market ruled as follows; we made on private terms, they ruled as follows:

CATTLE.

Extra, 1,400 to 1,500 lbs steers	$5 25@5 70
Prime, 1,200 to 1,300 lbs steers	5 00@5 25
Good, 1,100 to 1,200 lbs steers	4 00@4 75
Fair, 900 to 1,100 lbs steers	3 00@3 75
Common	2 50@3 00
Stockers	3 00@4 00
Bulls, stags and cows	2 50@3 00

HOGS.

Choice butchers'	$7 35@7 50
Fair butchers'	7 00@7 25
Roughs	6 25@6 50

SHEEP.

Extra, 95 to 100 lbs	$5 00@5 10
Extra, 85 to 90 lbs	4 60@4 70
Fair, 75 to 80 lbs	4 20@4 30
Common, 70 to 75 lbs	3 90@4 00
Lambs	4 75@5 50

CATTLE RECEIVED BY RAIL.

Consignee.	Where from.	Head.
J. Shamberg	Chicago	21
E. Katz	Chicago	21
M. Krauss	Chicago	22
Marks & Bro	Chicago	18
Kahn & Lobman	Chicago	73
W. & J. Rothchild	Chicago	25
M. Kline	Chicago	19
Marks & Co	Chicago	19
Trautman & L	Chicago	19
A. Greenwald	Crestline	54
S. H. Cockins	Bellaire	20
R. Haines	Bellaire	20
J. S. Johnson	Bellaire	20
J. S. Ferryce	Bellaire	20
Total this week		478
Total last week		680

[By Associated Press.]

NEW YORK, December 6.—Beeves—Receipts yesterday and to-day 4,420 head, making 8,870 head for the week, against 6,500 head last week. Quality fair generally and market about steady at an advance for the week equal to nearly 50c; no premium beeves offered; native cattle $9 00@13 50; Texans and Cherokees $8 50@10 50.

Sheep and lambs—Receipts yesterday and to-day 7,570 head, making 24,910 head for the week against 20,400 head last week. Prices much the same as Thursday and Friday with fair business; common to fancy sheep $4 50@7 60; lambs $5 50@7 50; fat sheep and lambs unlced $5 00@6 75.

Swine—receipts 10,450 head, making 33,040 head for the week, against 27,120 head last week. Market dull and weak with 2 car loads of Ohio corn-fed sold alive $7 50@7 56; no Western dressed yet offered; city dressed steady at $9 25@9 62½.

CHICAGO, December 6.—Cattle—Receipts 1,800 head. Market opened dull but closed rather more active; smooth native steers $4 75@5 75; half fattened and smooth do $4 50@

CITY MATTERS.

For eighty-five cents per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Local Observation.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV. } Room 23, First National Bank, PITTSBURGH, PA., December 6, 1875.

Time.	Bar	Th'r.	Hum	WIND. Dir.	Force.	Weath.
7 A. M.	29.612	45	92	S.W.	Fresh.	Cloudy
2 P. M.	29.626	47	77	S.W.	Light.	Cloudy
9 P. M.	29.624	40	85	N. E.	Gentle	Lt.rain

Mean barometer....29.261 Highest thermom....48
Mean thermom.....46 Lowest thermom.....37
Rainfall.....1.05

The Diamond Cutting Affray.

Henry Neeland, who was cut in an affray in a Diamond saloon, on Sunday, and on account of which Thomas Bacon and Charles Smith were arrested, made information yesterday charging Bacon with felonious assault and battery. Neeland, who was severely injured, stated that Smith did not touch him, and, in consequence, the latter was discharged. Bacon was committed to await the recovery of the injured man.

Wharf Committee.

The Wharf Committee of Pittsburgh Councils met last evening, Mr. Torrens in the chair.

Wharfmaster Buchanan reported $1,018 receipts during November, and $240 83 expenditures.

After the transaction of some further business of no public interest the Committee adjourned.

The City Poor.

At the office of the Board of Poor Guardians yesterday there were 115 applicants for relief. Seventy-eight dollars in money, 32 loads of coal and 9 pairs of shoes were distributed. The number of applicants is increasing daily and the distress, aside from that occasioned by the puddlers strike, will be greater this winter than last. Persons are now applying who were pinched last winter but will be unable to get through this winter. Should the puddlers strike again the distress will be greater than ever before experienced.

The Stock Yard Nuisance.

Yesterday afternoon a committee of citizens of the Second ward, Allegheny, waited on Mayor Phillips and requested him to proceed forthwith to enforce the ordinance requiring the removal of the stock pens from that ward. The committee stated that they would give Bonds for the indemnification of the city for any costs that may be put upon it in any legal contest arising from an enforcement of the ordinance. The Mayor declines to move in the matter until after the sub committee appointed by the Board of Health shall make a report.

More Stolen Goods Recovered.

The Allegheny detectives made another haul of stolen goods yesterday. This time they made a discovery which will probably result in the conviction of the men who committed the burglary at Rombach's store, in Saltsburg, on the night of November 1. In the room, at the St. John's Hotel, occupied by O. F. Sickett and Wm. Topper, whose arrest has been noted, the detectives found a gold watch, a quantity of jewelry and other articles, nearly all of which, including the watch, have been identified by Mr. Rombach. Sackett and Topper will have a hearing before Mayor Phillips to-morrow.

Stoning a Watchman.

George Snyder, a private watchman at the stores in the vicinity of the Central Hotel, Allegheny, saw a couple of men, shortly after the fire at the Central yesterday morning, loitering in the alley in the rear of Erwin's store. Suspecting they were burglars Snyder started toward them, when one of them threw a large bowlder at him, striking him in the breast. The watchman was stunned and staggered by the blow, and by the time he recovered his equilibrium the scamps had made good their escape. The officer emptied two chambers of his revolver at their retreating figures, but it is feared the shots did not strike the objects aimed at.

Escape from Jail.

Sunday evening as the wife of Sheriff Guffey, of Westmoreland county, went to the cell in the jail in which John Gordon was located, to give him and his companion supper, Gordon and his comrade rushed out of the cell past her and escaped, and thus far have eluded arrest.

Gordon was arrested a few days since for robbing the dry goods and clothing store of Robb, Black, on Main street, directly opposite the hotel at Greensburg, of goods to the value of $3,000. The robbery was committed at night, and the thieves first stole a wagon and some harness, the latter they cracked the store, hauling the goods to a barn about four miles out in the country. The morning after the robbery the marks of the wagon wheels were traced in the road to this barn and all of the goods recovered, and the wagon and horses were overhauled two miles beyond.

The Puddlers and the Manufacturers.

This afternoon the committee of puddlers and the iron manufacturers' committee will meet to determine the price of puddling iron. The report that the puddlers have decided to adhere to the demand for $5 per ton is not denied, while the manufacturers will, it is said, insist on a reduction to $4 50. It is to be hoped that an amicable settlement will result from the meeting to-day, for should a fight occur the negotiations will be protracted and may result in a strike. If the mills stop now, there must be great distress among the poor, and trade in all branches will languish. Some of the mills are expected to stop if a settlement is not promptly arrived at. It is said that Messrs. Hunter & Bro. have made a private arrangement with their men to continue at $5, and thus by forcibought and prompt concession many puddlers have secured themselves. It is claimed, however, on the part of the manufacturers, as a body, that they cannot continue unless they obtain a reduction below $5.

The Temperance Alliance.

A regular weekly meeting of the county Temperance Alliance was held yesterday, Mr. Jennings presiding.

Dr. Kennedy reported a meeting of the Alliance on Friday evening; also a meeting on Sabbath afternoon. Mr. Martin reported a meeting held in the rooms Sunday afternoon, at which Mrs. Stevens, the celebrated temperance advocate of Ohio, was present and delivered an address. The newsboys' Sunday school, it is reported, has seventy-five scholars.

A resolution offered by Mr. Bradley at the last meeting to appoint a committee to inquire into the practicability of petitioning the Senate and Legislature to restore local option was referred to a committee of five, with instructions to consider it and report the result of their deliberations to the alliance.

Some discussion took place regarding the crusade of Chief Ross against the jury commissioners.

The question at issue between the temperance folks of Tarentum and those of Harmarville, as to the right of possession of the prize flag, was referred to a committee for settlement.

Homeopathic Fair.

Yesterday was the most successful day of the fair at City Hall, and the ladies are correspondingly happy. But two days remain and all who have not given themselves the pleasure of a visit to the fair should lose no time in doing so. We hear rumors of some special entertainment to take place the last evening. The dinner of yesterday was particularly good, owing to the special donations referred to yesterday. To-day's dinner is promised equally good.

We have failed to notice, heretofore, the beautiful "National Booth," a most tastefully arranged fancy table, having in display an unusual variety of useful and fancy articles. The ladies having charge of this booth are Mrs. Jarvis Adams, Mrs. Josiah Cohen, Mrs. Col. Negley, Mrs. Bierman and Mrs. Getty. The assistants are Miss Florence Rosenberg, Sallie Robison, Eva Ansbutz, Emma Rich, Jennie Negley, Kate Rich, Jannet Adams and Gertrude Elliot.

Near this is the refreshment booth in care of Mrs. H. M. Rolfe and Mrs. G. Folansbee, assisted by Misses Sadie Graham, Porterfield and Minnie Jones. Oysters and other substantials, as well as ice cream, are to be had at this excellent department.

Although much encouraged by yesterday's attendance, the ladies hope to do still better the remaining days of the fair.

Suspected Thieves Arrested.

Detective John Moessner yesterday arrested two suspicious characters whom he found trying to dispose of various articles of clothing, &c. They were taken to the Mayor's office, where they gave their names as Hubert Hoffman and Theodore Gfroerer. Hubert Hoffman was provided with three overcoats—one nearly new. He had in his possession seven or eight spoons, two of which were of large size, and were marked with the initials "M. J. C." He had also some twelve or fifteen keys, a gold bracelet, revolver, gold earring, box of matches and numerous trinkets. Another man was captured several table cloths, some towels, napkins, linen handkerchiefs and a piece of green silk poplin. Gfroerer had only two overcoats, but he was provided with several caps, four or five brass keys, and a gold bracelet. In a pillow case were found table covers, napkins, a cashmere scarf and an overcoat. The pair claimed that they had been in the city but three or four days, and from a temperance pledge found in Gfroerer's possession it is evident that he had been stopping at the Young Men's Home. They claimed to be from Caledonia, Ohio, and said that they had been peddling in that state. They did not attempt to explain how they came in possession of the goods further than by stating that they were out of work and must do something. They were committed for a hearing.

THE GRAND JURY MATTER.

Mr. Ross' Complaint Laid Before Court.

The Alleged Irregularity Investigated.

Two Names Not on the Certified List—The Other Three All Right—Charge to the Grand Jury—The Fifth Ward Election Irregularities—The Assistant District Attorney, etc.

The December term of the Court of Quarter Sessions opened yesterday, Judge Sterrett presiding.

There was a very large attendance both inside and outside the bar, and much interest was manifested as to what course would be taken relative to the allegations of William B. Ross, in connection with the drawing of grand and traverse jurors. Mr. Ross was present with his counsel, Mr. Moore, and it was certain that the matter would come up in some form.

MR. ROSS' PETITION.

The names of the grand jurors having been called, Mr. Moore, on behalf of Mr. Ross, presented a petition to the Court, complaining that five names were on the venire of grand jurors which did not appear on the certified list containing the names of all which had been placed in the wheel at the beginning of the year, and that fifteen were on the traverse jury which could not be found on the list. The following names were given: Grand Jurors—Dr. W. J. Gilmore, Upper St. Clair township; Charles Jeremy, Seventh ward, Pittsburgh; J. C. Michel, painter, Third ward, Pittsburgh; James Doyle, laborer, Tenth ward, Pittsburgh; J. Sampson, farmer, Penn township. Traverse Jurors—Jacob Affelder, liquor merchant; Thos. B. Jones, hotel keeper; M. F. Lynch, saloon keeper; Patrick Melville, liquor dealer; Simon Vincent, saloon keeper; Patrick Hughes, saloon keeper; Bernard Coll, brewer; Thos. Moffatt, laborer; Anthony Ferrvogle, mill roller; Peter Duer, farmer; R. M. Gibson, farmer; Wm. Powers, farmer; James Thorn, manufacturer; Wm. Walker, bricklayer; Richard Bishop, farmer.

Judge Sterrett stated that a motion to quash the array, or a challenge for cause as to the particular jurors named, would be the proper step to take; but Mr. Ross was not a suitor.

Mr. Moore then moved, on behalf of Wm. B. Ross—who had cases involving costs pending against him from the last term, and who had cases to prosecute before the present Grand Jury—that the names of those grand jurors, who had been improperly drawn, as set forth in the petition, be stricken from the array. He stated that he preferred this course rather than moving to quash the entire array, as he thought the names could be stricken off, (if it should appear the jurors were not properly drawn) without delaying the business of the court.

Mr. Ross was then sworn, and stated that he had examined the jury register, and failed to find thereon the names of the five grand jurors designated in his petition.

Judge Sterrett stated that the name of every juror drawn should be upon the registry, on file in the Prothonotary's office, and under the circumstances he would have to send for the Sheriff and the Jury Commissioners, that the matter might be investigated. In a few minutes Sheriff Hare appeared and was sworn.

THE EXAMINATION.

Sheriff Hare, in answer to questions by the Court, said Captain McClelland and he were present when the last grand jury were drawn. The names were drawn from the wheel in the usual way. I opened the wheel, and the first twenty-four names drawn were recorded as grand jurors. The names were taken out one at a time. I handed the names to Captain McClelland, who read them out, and the clerk took them down. I do not know whether the tags containing the names were preserved or not. I think I do remember Gilmore and Jeremy's names, as they were so familiar to me. I also recollect drawing the name of John Sampson.

Jury Commissioner McClelland was next called, and stated that the method of getting extra names into the wheel. It is sealed up when not in use.

Mr. O'Donnell, clerk to the Sheriff and Jury Commissioners, was also called and testified that he recorded the names, as called out by Captain McClelland, and recorded them correctly. He had no recollection of Jeremy or Gilmore, or any one else, apart from the Sheriff.

Jury Commissioner McClelland was not present, but was expected every moment.

Judge Sterrett—The testimony is that the names were taken out of the wheel properly. How five could get on the panel of twenty-four, not certified to as in the wheel, I cannot understand. The object of the certified list is to show that the names drawn were properly in the wheel. This is the first year under the Act of March 15th, 1875. I remember calling the attention of the Jury Commissioners to this Act, and requesting them to make carefully an alphabetical list of all the names placed in the wheel. The third section of the act reads as follows:

"That hereafter a list containing the name, occupation and residence of every person placed in the jury wheel shall be kept, certified by the Judge and Jury Commissioners, or such of them as shall be present at the selection of such persons, and filed of record in the office of the Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas of the respective county."

Mr. Moore—As the list is alphabetical, I suggest that your Honor send for and examine it. It will not take much time.

The Court—Let the list be brought, that it may be determined whether the names are on it or not.

Clerk Hunter brought the list from the Prothonotary's office, and the Court proceeded to examine it.

Judge Sterrett—There are only five names from Upper St. Clair, and Dr. Gilmore's name is not among them.

Mr. Montooth suggested that the Doctor might have left the country, as in the Fifth ward, Pittsburgh, where he had his office. Mr. Jeremy's name was not thereon.

The name of "J. C. Michtelf" was found, and it was conceded by Mr. Moore that it was intended for J. C. Michel, the party drawn, as the occupation was the same.

"James Doyle, laborer," was found on the list, and it was evident that there had been a mistake in the first name.

John Sampson, farmer, was not on the Plum township list, but "John Simpson" was. There was also a "Thomas Simpson" on the list and the juror said he had a brother Thomas Sampson, and that he did not know of any Simpsons in the township.

THE DECISION.

Judge Sterrett—This name Simpson, on the list, evidently was intended for Sampson, and that would account for the discrepancy. The three last are apparently right, but as for the other two, they don't appear to be here. The Court overrules the motion as to Michel, Doyle and Sampson, and will hold the other two (Gilmore and Jeremy) under advisement. Mr. Jeremy is not present in court, and Dr. Gilmore will please stand aside for the present.

SWEARING THE GRAND JURY.

The Grand Jury were then sworn, and Arthur Hobson, Esq., was designated as foreman.

Judge Sterrett then delivered the usual charge, fully instructing the jury as to their powers and duties. Referring to the oath itself, as expressive of their duties, he said they were required, among other things, to keep their proceedings secret. Whether this law was wise or unwise, it had existed from time immemorial, and the grand jury had, of course, to observe it. Courts and juries must administer the laws, no matter what their private opinion might be concerning them. We must take the law just as we find it, without regard to whether it suits our private views or not.

THE ELECTION IRREGULARITY.

Judge Sterrett then said: We have but one special matter to present to you at present. The law requires the Court of Common Pleas to canvass the election returns, and also to appoint overseers of elections. Prior to the last election, overseers were appointed in the second district of the Fifth ward, Pittsburgh, one of whom presented a charge to the canvassing board, which ought to be investigated. The judges who canvassed the vote, and to whom the charge was presented, could not consider the matter directly, but deemed it proper to hand it over to Judge White, who was then presiding in the Quarter Sessions. Judge White received the paper and endorsed theron, "to be laid before the next grand jury," and it comes before you in this way.

The court then read the affidavit of M. W. Lewis, overseer in the Second district of the Fifth ward, setting forth that, at the last election, persons had voted by proxy; that there were twenty-two more votes cast than there were names on the poll list and that, in order to make the numbers correspond, twenty-two ballots were destroyed.

Judge Sterrett continued: It is of the utmost importance that the purity of the ballot box be maintained, and if offences such as these charged have been committed, those participating therein ought to be punished. The four will see that the proper witnesses are brought before you. Such charges, I am free to say, are very rare in Allegheny county. Our elections are fairly and honestly conducted, and the way to keep them pure is to check the first attempt at anything improper.

THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

Another matter occurs to me, and it is this. The Assistant District Attorney by virtue of his office, may direct you in regard to the law. He has no right, however, to direct or influence you, in any way, as to the discharge of your duties. It must not be permitted to dictate to you in the disposition of any case brought before you, and you will vindicate your rights by seeing that he does not interfere with you. It is his duty to present the bills, with a list of the witnesses for the Commonwealth, for your examination. It is not his duty to examine the witnesses, and he need not even be present. If there is any interference with you, in any way, you will please inform the Court.

The Grand Jury were then remanded that money could be saved to the county, and great inconvenience to suitors avoided, by a prompt disposition of the public business. The Grand Jury then retired to their room.

CAPT. M'CLELLAND'S TESTIMONY.

At the conclusion of the charge to the Grand Jury, Capt. McClelland, one of the Jury Commissioners, appeared and was sworn. His testimony was similar to that of Sheriff Hare, with the addition that he did not think he had placed Dr. Gilmore's name on the Republican list which he had made out. The names of grand jurors he had inclosed in an envelope and sent to Commissioner Strain. He did not understand how these disputed names could have gotten into the wheel, unless, perhaps, by some inadvertence, the Commissioners had omitted to put them on the certified list.

Judge Sterrett said that was possible, and if it could be established that some of these names had been omitted, that it would not interfere with them serving. But there were fifteen on the traverse jury irregularly drawn, provided 'Squire Ross' charges were correct.

Mr. Moore suggested that the number might be materially reduced by an examination, which the Judge said was all true enough.

Commissioner McClelland was then relieved, and the constables' returns were received, after which the Court took a recess.

Only one jury was called, and that for the purpose of taking a verdict in a case in which the prosecutor had failed to appear.

The irregularities in the drawing of the traverse jury will probably be investigated to-day.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Regular Meeting—The Bankrupt Law Discussed—Citizens' Meeting to be Held—The Ohio River Improvement

A regular meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held yesterday afternoon, General Howe, President, in the chair.

Mr. McCreary, from a committee appointed, suggested the names of Messrs. S. L. McHenry, S. B. Floyd, T. L. Rodgers, O. M. Head and L. G. Graff as delegates to attend the opening of the Peoria, Ill., Chamber of Commerce, 15th inst.

On motion the appointments were approved.

The committee also reported that it had been unable to find parties able to attend the meeting of the American Board of Transportation and Commerce at Chicago on the same day.

On motion the committee was continued, and the Secretary was authorized to furnish credentials to parties appointed.

THE BANKRUPT LAW.

The subject of a meeting to consider the bankrupt law which was postponed at last meeting was taken up.

C. B. M. Smith, Esq., by request addressed the Board. He said he was present by invitation of some of the members of the Board but had not prepared to speak upon the subject. He believed that the opposition to the bankrupt law was occasioned by a misapprehension of the operations of the law. Mr. Smith here explained its operations and explained how debtors could neglect to take advantage of its provisions had failed to receive due benefits from it. During the eight years since the United States bankrupt law was passed there had been but twenty-five hundred cases, or an average of one per day in this, the Western district, which comprises a very large business portion of the State, including all the bituminous as well as the anthracite coal regions. Of these cases there was but one involuntary to nine voluntary. The law gives a great benefit over the old State law in that there can be no preferred creditors as under the old State law. Bankrupts cannot confess judgment to defeat creditors—all must be treated alike. During the last year in our State courts in this county, there were from 8,000 to 10,000 judgments obtained.

Mr. Smith in conclusion suggested that it might be well to obtain some amendments, one such as would obviate the difficulty suggested by Justice Strong's decision as to judgment notes. Also to provide for equal exemptions in all the States. Now the law provides for $500 exemption in addition to the exemption allowance under the several States. In this State $300 is allowed, making a total under the United States bankrupt law of $800.

Mr. Dravo thought people generally and the public might not be fully informed as to the operations of the law, and it might be well to have a discussion of the subject.

Mr. Siebeneck expressed the opinion that a public meeting should be held.

Mr. Arthur Kirk suggested that the law be carefully examined by members.

PUBLIC MEETING CALLED.

Mr. Siebeneck moved that a citizens' meeting be called to meet at the rooms of the Board on Friday next, at two P. M. to consider the subject and take action relative thereto.

The motion prevailed, and Mr. Smith was invited to be present.

A vote of thanks was tendred Mr. Smith for his attendance and interesting address.

Messrs. Arthur Kirk, Ogle, Schoonmaker and John A. Ricketson were nominated and elected members of the Board.

The Secretary stated that he had a letter inquiring as to the standing of a certain grain merchant.

The chair decided the matter as not coming within the province of the Chamber.

Mr. Dravo moved the adoption of the following:

Resolved, That the improvement of the Ohio river be taken up for consideration at the next meeting of the Chamber with a view of memorializing Congress for the necessary appropriations to complete the required improvement.

The resolution was adopted.

Mr. McCreary thought that the Government was very slow in the work of improvement.

Mr. Dravo said it was necessary to push the matter along.

Adjourned.

COURT PROCEEDINGS.

United States Circuit Court—Judge McKennan.

At the opening of Court, the jury in the case of Shafer vs. the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, came in and reported that they were unable to agree. As they had been out since Thursday last, they asked to be discharged. Counsel refused to discharge them, remarking that this case had been twice tried, and it ought to be decided. He suggested that a result could only be reached by concessions, and that if a preponderance of the jury was in favor of a certain result, the agreement could be had only by the acquiescence of the minority. The jury again retired, and are still out.

The case of Cruse vs. the Kittanning Coal Company was resumed, and is still on trial. The action involves the possession of four hundred and twenty-seven acres of ground in Cambria and Blair counties, valued at $40,000.

United States District Court—Judge McCandless.

John Finker, bankrupt, Luzerne county. An order was made for the sale of certain real estate discharged of all liens.

Baer & Stegmaier, bankrupts, Luzerne county. Petitioned and Haver Hofmansees and Anna Goltz for the ascertainment and liquidation of liens. Referred to Register Willard.

W. B. McLean, bankrupt, Pittsburgh. Application for an injunction deferred until the 16th inst.

United States vs. Joseph Spahr. On motion of Mr. Over, attorney for defendant, the District Attorney being present and not objecting thereto, and it appearing that a new recognizance has been filed, it is ordered that the forfeiture of the recognizance in said case be taken off on payment of costs on the *scire facias*.

Common Pleas No. 1—Judges Stowe and Collier.

Daniel Bargan presented a petition for discharge from jail under the insolvent laws, and January 18 was appointed for a hearing in the case.

The case of the Atlas Works vs. Norman & Updegraff was then taken up and is still on trial.

Common Pleas No. 2—Judge Ewing and Kirkpatrick.

The case of Wm. Ward vs. The Pittsburgh Locomotive and Car Works, before reported, is still on trial.

Thomas Robertson vs. Louisa Smith and D. S. Wright, previously reported. Jury out.

Peter Wolf vs. Martin Briggs and D. C. McKnight, previously reported. On trial.

The Northwestern Railroad.

The special committee, appointed from the Railroad and Street Committees of Allegheny Councils to consider the petition of the Pittsburgh and Northwestern Railroad Company for the right of way through the city, held another meeting last evening.

The President and other officers of the railroad company were present, and from them it was learned that it was their intention to commence building their road at this end of the route instead of at Youngstown. Upon this statement being made the proviso, adopted at a former meeting, requiring the company to have their road graded and constructed between Youngstown and Superior station and their track laid within twenty miles of Allegheny city before the right of way should be deemed granted or available, was stricken out.

It was agreed to insert a clause in the ordinance granting the company the right of way between Walnut and Juniata streets, provided a forty feet street be left between the tracks and the property line, and the spans of the trestle work be made sixteen feet wide.

The committee adjourned to meet on Monday evening next.

THE Water Committee of Allegheny Councils met last evening, but transacted no business of importance. The pay roll for November—$1,190 82—and bills to the amount of $1,029 were approved.

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Retrenchment and Reform — Cutting Down Salaries—Ordinances Adopted in Common Branch—The Peddler Ordinance in Select—The Office of Civil Engineer of the New Water Works to be Abolished—Minor Matters.

Pittsburgh Councils met yesterday, the Select Branch in regular session and the Common Branch upon adjournment, to act upon the report of the Committee on Retrenchment and Reform.

We report the proceedings below:

SELECT BRANCH.

The Select Council was called to order at 2:15 P. M. President Gross being absent, Mr. Bruce, on motion of Mr. Braun, was called to the chair.

Mr. Shipton presented a report of viewers on a boardwalk on Plane avenue, Twenty-seventh ward. Approved.

The resignation of M. A. Arnholt, of the Twenty-sixth ward, as a member, was presented and accepted.

Several petitions relating to overpaid taxes, errors in assessments, etc., were presented and referred to the proper committees.

Mr. Hunter, from the Committee on City Property, reported a negative recommendation as to an ordinance locating an engine house in the Eighteenth ward. Approved.

Mr. Aiken moved that the ordinance be indefinitely postponed. Carried.

President Gross came in at this stage of the proceedings, and presided throughout the remainder of the session.

THE PEDDLER ORDINANCES.

Mr. Kerr, from the Ordinance Committee, presented an ordinance relating to the sale of merchandise from boats, cars, wharves, landings, railroad sidings and depots in the city. The ordinance provides: That from and after the first day of January, A. D. 1876, it shall not be lawful for any person to sell at wholesale or retail from any boat, wharf, landing, depot, car, or railroad siding within the limits of the city of Pittsburgh any produce or merchandise without having first obtained a license for such privileges from the City Treasurer. That the City Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to issue license granting such privileges for one year to any applicant who shall pay to said Treasurer for the use of the city the sum of one hundred dollars. That any person who shall, after the first day of January, A. D. 1876, sell at wholesale or retail any produce or merchandise from any boat, wharf, landing, depot, car or railroad siding within the limits of the city of Pittsburgh, without having first obtained a license therefor, or being so qualified shall refuse on request to show his license, shall be liable to a fine of fifty dollars for every such offense, to be collected as fines of like amount are by law collectable. This ordinance shall not be construed or held to apply to farmers or gardners selling the productions of their own farms or gardens, nor to manufacturers or regular dealers paying a business tax into the city treasury.

The vote on the final passage of the ordinance was—yeas, 30; nays, 13. Failing to receive a legal majority, the ordinance was not passed.

Mr. Littell moved to amend by inserting after the words "railroad siding," in the first and third sections, the words "or any other place." The amendment was carried and the ordinance was laid over.

Mr. Kerr also presented an ordinance relating to the sale of merchandise from wagons, carts or other vehicles, on streets, lanes or alleys in the city. The ordinance provides that persons who peddle produce in wagons shall obtain a license from the City Treasurer; that $20 a year shall be paid for said license. The penalty for violating this ordinance is $50 for each offense. The provisions in regard to farmers and gardeners selling their own productions are similar to those of the ordinance relating to the sale of merchandise from boats, cars, etc.

The ordinance was amended by reducing the fine from $50 to $25 and laid over.

MISCELLANEOUS.

An ordinance for the location of Washington street, South Side, was passed finally.

A resolution confirming the grant of the use of old City Hall to St. Paul's Orphan Asylum, by the Duquesne Greys, for the purpose of holding a fair, was referred to the Market Committee, with power to act.

A resolution making the Finance Committee on Retrenchment and Reform the special order at the next meeting was laid on the table.

A resolution requesting the Mayor to order a special election in the Twenty-sixth ward, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Arnholt, was adopted.

Mr. Howard, Councilman in place of committee of five—two from Select and three from Common Council—to confer with the Guardians of the Poor and the directors of the Bethel Home on the subject of furnishing employment for tramps, was adopted, and Messrs. Breed and Metzgar appointed for Select Council.

Mr. Pinley presented the following in connection with a preamble setting forth the importance of improving the Ohio river:

Resolved, That a committee of five—two from Select and three from Common Council—be appointed in conjunction with the Citizens' Committee appointed at the Exposition Buildings, in order that ways and means be devised and steps be taken to bring before Congress this all-important and vital enterprise, and secure at as early a day as possible the appropriation recommended by the engineers in charge of this improvement.

Adopted.

COMMON COUNCIL BUSINESS.

The following business from the Common Council was presented:

Resolution relative to the improvement of Chestnut street, South Side. Laid over.

Ordinance for the opening of Fifty-fourth street from Butler street to McCandless avenue. Passed.

Ordinance for the grading of Gardner's alley, from Forty-fourth to Forty-fifth street. Passed.

The ordinances relating to salaries, passed in the Common branch, were read by the Clerk, and on motion of Mr. Shipton they were made the special order for next Monday.

Adjourned.

COMMON BRANCH.

This branch met as per adjournment, President Negley in the chair, for the purpose of hearing the report of the Committee on Retrenchment and Reform as to the reduction of official salaries.

Mr. Fox, chairman of the committee, came prepared with the result of the committee's labors as already published, from time to time, comprising some nineteen different ordinances.

THE NEW WATER WORKS.

When the business was called, Mr. Glass first presented the ordinance abolishing the Civil Engineer's department of the new water works, which was placed on its third reading and final passage.

Mr. Thomson wanted to know what authority the committee had for presenting such an ordinance.

Mr. Negley thought they had been acting under a joint resolution of Councils.

Mr. Powers, of the committee, said the ordinance had also been prepared in accordance with a resolution adopted by the Water Extension Committee.

A call was made for the original resolution, and after it had been produced the chairman read the ordinance and resolution, and not come within the directions of the resolution.

Mr. Thomson then moved that the ordinance be referred to the Water Committee. This was amended and the ordinance went back to the Retrenchment and Reform Committee.

HEALTH BOARD—POLICE—FIREMEN.

Pending the production of the resolution, Mr. Fox offered a resolution asking that Councils give the matter of street cleaning by the Board of Health much consideration as it deserved, and also that Councils shall endorse the action of the same Board in the matter of vaccination, but deprecate the "one dollar" clause. A motion to table prevailed.

Mr. Glass then proceeded with his budget and offered an ordinance fixing the salaries of employees in the City Engineer's office. A motion to refer to Retrenchment and Reform was made and withdrawn, and a vote was taken thereon. The ordinance passed finally.

Mr. Glass next offered an ordinance fixing the salary of the police force.

Mr. Fox now moved a postponement of the above ordinance till the balance were considered.

Mr. Wainwright wanted the ordinances reducing the pay of the police and the firemen deferred until he ascertained whether or not there was a general reduction. If there was not he would oppose those ordinances.

A vote was then taken on the motion of Mr. Fox and it was adopted by a vote of seventeen to eleven.

THE CITY ENGINEER'S SALARY.

Mr. Glass then offered an ordinance establishing the salary of the City Engineer.

Mr. Thomson wanted the matter referred to the Water Committee.

Mr. Powers objected on the ground that this was the proper time and place for considering the matter.

Mr. Seibert thought the Survey Committee the proper body to fix the salaries of employes under its charge.

Mr. Wainwright thought that inasmuch as Council had come here to do their duty in the matter of retrenchment and that now was the time to act.

Mr. Conway concurred and Mr. Nesbitt followed in a few remarks.

A motion to refer was lost, and a vote upon the final passage of the ordinance was taken. [This ordinance provides that the salary of the City Engineer be fixed at $3,200.] Passed.

WATER WORKS EMPLOYEES.

Mr. Glass next presented an ordinance fixing the salary of employees at the water works.

Mr. Fox raised a point of order, to the effect that under the provisions of the Wallace bill no ordinance could be acted upon until they had been referred to a committee, printed and returned to Councils.

Mr. Powers claimed that the ordinances were properly before the Councils.

The Chair decided that the resolution under which the ordinance was presented was broad enough and that Councils was acting properly in the premises. So the question was put again on the passage of the ordinance, and voting proceeded, resulted in the passage of the ordinance.

THE ASSISTANT CLERK'S SALARY.

Mr. Glass next presented the ordinance reducing the salary of the assistant city clerk from $1,700 to $1,500.

Mr. Nesbitt said he was opposed to reducing the salary of the [illegible] did an immense amount of work and should be paid for it.

Messrs. Finnerty and Fox spoke in the same strain.

A motion was made to lay the ordinance on the table. Lost.

Mr. Nesbitt moved to indefinitely postpone, which was adopted by a vote of thirteen to eight.

THE MARKET DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Glass next presented the ordinance reducing the salaries of the employees of the Market Department.

Mr. Foley moved as an amendment that the salary of the Clerk of Markets, South Side, be fixed at $900, instead of $800, as provided in the ordinance. Lost.

The ordinance was then placed on its third reading and final passage, and it was adopted by a unanimous vote.

The ordinance establishing the salary of the wharf masters and assigning to the Monongahela Wharf Master the charge of the Allegheny wharf was presented.

A vote was taken and before the result was announced Mr. Foley wished to change his vote, as the figures in the ordinance were not those recommended by the Committee. The ordinance upon this discovery was referred back to the Retrenchment Committee.

OTHER REDUCTIONS.

The ordinance reducing the salary of the Building inspector from $2,000 to $1,500, was passed finally.

The ordinance providing that the same official shall attend to the duties of Board Measurer, was ruled out of order under the same point affecting the ordinance of the Civil Engineer of the Water Extension.

The ordinance reducing the salary of the Assessor of Water Rents from $1,700 to $1,600 per year, and that of his Assistant from $1,080 to $900, was passed finally.

The ordinance reducing the salary of Messenger to Councils from $1,000 to $800 was presented.

Mr. Kerr moved that the ordinance be indefinitely postponed. The motion was lost.

Mr. Siebert moved to amend by fixing the salary at $900.

This motion too was lost and the ordinance was passed finally.

The ordinance reducing the Assistant Controller's salary from $2,000 to $1,800, and that of the clerk from $900 to $800, was passed without a dissenting vote.

THE BOARD OF REVISION.

The ordinance fixing the salary of each member of the Board of Revision at $5 per day for each day actually served was presented. The Revisors each received $5 per day for the whole time the Board was sitting whether present or not.

Mr. Thomson said that Council had no power to reduce the salary of Revisors at present elected and moved to amend by providing that the ordinance shall not apply to those now elected.

Mr. Foley stated that they were elected for three years.

After some discussion the ordinance was referred to the City Attorney for his opinion.

THE CITY ASSESSOR.

An ordinance amending an ordinance providing for the equalization of the valuation of taxable property was presented. This was offered so as to legalize the action reducing the salary of City Assessor and Clerk to the Board of Revision. The ordinance was referred to the Retrenchment Committee under the rule above cited.

The ordinance reducing the salary of City Assessor and Clerk to the Board of Revision from $3,300 to $2,600 per annum was passed.

The resolution providing that the Street Commissioners have charge of the cleaning and repairing of the wharves presented by the Select Branch, believed that the matter was referred to the Street Committee.

The resolution calling on the Board of Health to reduce salaries and number of their employees was adopted.

OFFICES ABOLISHED.

Mr. Powers, from the Retrenchment Committee, then presented the ordinance abolishing the offices connected with the water extension which was ruled out of order in the early part of the meeting.

Mr. Thomson again objected to considering the ordinance, but was unable to produce any law showing that the ordinance was out of order. The President decided it properly before Council.

Mr. Thomson wanted to known when the Retrenchment Committee met since the ordinance was referred to them.

Mr. Powers stated a majority of the committee had met in the ante-room a few moments before.

The ordinance was then put on its final passage and was adopted.

The ordinance reducing the Mayor's clerk's salary from $2,000 to $1,600 was adopted. Mr. Nesbitt in the Thirty-third ward, voted in the negative.

RECOMMITTED.

The ordinance reducing the pay of the firemen was erroneously printed, and was referred back for correction. The words "per annum" instead of "per year" were inserted after the amounts named.

The ordinance reducing the number of patrolmen from 200 to 180, detectives from seven to five, and captains from two to one, was presented.

Mr. Thomson reported that the Mayor objected to reducing the number of the force on the ground that the man's energy. Dr. Daly gave such attention as was necessary, after which Rice was sent to the Mercy Hospital. He was still alive at one o'clock this morning, but his case was considered extremely critical.

Mrs. Rice states that her husband has acted strangely during the last two weeks, and she thinks he was insane. Rice is about thirty-five years of age.

THE CENTENNIAL.

Opening Session This Evening.

The Centennial Memorial Convention of Presbyterianism in the West will begin this evening, in the First church, Wood street (Rev. S. F. Scovel, pastor). After the organization of the Convention, the Rev. D. H. Junkin, D. D., will deliver a discourse on the theme: "John McMillan—the Gospel he preached, and its influence on the civilization of Western Pennsylvania." On Wednesday morning, at nine o'clock, the Hon. James Veech will read a paper on "The Secular History of the Times we Celebrate," to be followed by "Pittsburgh a Century Ago," by Wm. M. Darlington, Esq. The sessions will be continued, day and evening, until Thursday next.

Sudden Death.

Thos. T. Marrion, a gentleman aged sixty years, who resided at No. 215 Federal street, Allegheny, dropped dead about half-past six o'clock yesterday morning, at a boarding house, No. 137 Third avenue. The wife of Marrion washes for the boarders there, and the deceased had called at the house for their clothes. An inquest was held last evening, the jury finding that death was caused by heart disease.

FATHER DONNELLY, pastor of the St. John's Catholic Church, South Side, during the absence of Father Pollard, in Europe, has been appointed pastor of the Alpsville Catholic Church. The reverend gentleman has been an invalid in the Mercy Hospital for the past two months, and only made his reappearance for the first time Sunday.

A Man Nearly Severs His Windpipe With a Razor.

Last evening, between seven and eight o'clock, a man named John Rice, residing at No. 51 Gibbon street, Sixth ward, attempted to kill himself by cutting his throat with a razor. The facts as given by Rice's wife, are as follows: Her husband returned home from his work (he is a blacksmith) about five o'clock last evening, and seemed greatly troubled about something. He walked the floor a few minutes and, in answer to questions as to the wherabouts of his son, a little boy who was out selling papers. Mrs. Rice prepared supper, of which her husband partook quite sparingly, and at the conclusion of the meal he rose from the table and said he would go to bed. Before starting up stairs, however, he again inquired about his boy, after which he said "good-bye" to his wife and retired. It was nearly eight o'clock when the lad returned, and as soon as he had eaten supper he accompanied his mother to their sleeping apartment. Here they encountered a scene which horrified them. Lying upon the bed, in a pool of blood, was the husband and father, with a gash in his throat some three and a half inches in length, extending from his left ear around under his chin. They notified the neighbors, some one of whom summoned Dr. Daly, who promptly attended the injured man. An examination showed that the windpipe was badly cut, and that there was but slight ground of hope for the man's recovery. Dr. Daly gave such attention as was necessary, after which Rice was sent to the Mercy Hospital. He was still alive at one o'clock this morning, but his case was considered extremely critical.

Mrs. Rice states that her husband has acted strangely